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Inter-Arab Affairs

Soviet Official Cited on Gulf Peace Efforts

JN1403194090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 14 Mar 90

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (WAKH)—A Soviet official said here today that his country is putting its weight behind efforts that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar intends to make to hold a new round of negotiations between Iraq and Iran to achieve a lasting peace between them.

Soviet Charge d'Affaires in Baghdad Aleksandr Kalugin said that the Soviet initiative regarding negotiations between the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers still stands. He added: "However, our efforts will at present focus on activating and supporting Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace efforts."

The two countries previously accepted a Soviet initiative calling for negotiations in Moscow, in the presence of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, with the aim of breaking the deadlock in efforts to reach a peace treaty designed to restore durable stability to the region.

At a news conference here at noon today, during which he presented an Arabic copy of the book "Perestroyka", by Soviet President Gorbachev, Kalugin said that his country is ready to resume its role if Iraq and Iran feel the need for a new round of talks in the Soviet capital.

Last week, the UN secretary general handed to the Iraqi and Iranian [UN] delegates a proposed agenda for a meeting that might be held between the foreign ministers of the two countries within a two-month period to discuss ways to implement UN Resolution 598.

In reply to a question, the Soviet official said that the Soviet Union, despite its current circumstances, is placing its efforts at the disposal of the two countries to help achieve a durable solution to the war that lasted eight years.

On another issue, Kalugin said that a new round of talks between Iraqi and Soviet officials will be held in Moscow next month to draw up the final formulas for bilateral industrial and trade cooperation during the next 15 years.

Kalugin added that the first round of talks in Baghdad was devoted to drafting initial perceptions of this cooperation, which is planned to cover several areas. However, the Soviet official has not spoken about the cost of the projects to be implemented as part of this cooperation. He added: "We left the cost of these projects open and without any specific ceiling."

It was mentioned earlier that the volume of trade between Iraq and the USSR for last year exceeded $2 billion.

Arab League, OAU Agree To Strengthen Ties

LD1603094390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The Arab League and the OAU have agreed to hold joint consultations on ways of strengthening Arab-African cooperation and making it compatible with the new international atmosphere. This was mentioned in a statement issued by the Arab League General Secretariat in Tunis today about the visit to the League's headquarters by OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim, which started yesterday and his talks with Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general.

The statement said that during their discussions Klibi and Ahmad Salim reviewed the situation in Africa and the Arab world and appealed to the international community to intensify efforts to put an end to apartheid in South Africa and to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East which would guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. They also called for a peace treaty between Iraq and Iran.

The talks covered ways to implement the resolutions of the Permanent Committee for Arab and African Cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, and information fields, particularly measures concerning the Arab-African financial establishment for investments, the establishment of which was decided at the Permanent Committee's meeting in Kuwait last June, the organization of the first Arab-African commercial exhibition in Tunis in 1991, and the opening of the Arab-African cultural institute in 1991.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Official Comments on Israeli Cabinet Crisis

JN1503192290 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 14 Mar 90 p 13

[Text] Tunis, AL-BAYAN—'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee and one of the officials in charge of coordinating between the PLO leadership and the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, has said that the PLO organs and leadership have been put on alert in anticipation of Israeli aggression in view of the serious situation that emerged yesterday.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN, 'Abbas Zaki commented on the collapse of the Israeli Government and said that events in Israel caused the Palestinian leaders to upgrade the state of alert. He added that the Palestinian leaders are sitting in continuous session to consider political developments and make the proper decisions. He stated that all PLO institutions will share in the making of these decisions in light of the seriousness of the situation.

The Palestinian official said that the current situation in Israel projects the true image of Israel, especially its hostile and expansionist anti-peace policy. He added

that Israel has opted to halt any progress toward peace as long as Shamir remains prime minister.

Zaki went on to say that Shamir's decisions, which sparked the cabinet crisis, were prompted by a desire to gain time and to maneuver so as to abort the intifadah and thwart the peace plans, particularly the Palestinian initiative.

'Abbas Zaki said that the Israeli prime minister's decision will nurture extremism and terrorism within the hearts of Zionist settlers who are convinced that brandishing a stick in the face of Europe, the Arabs, and even the United States is a proper method to use to bring about the subjugation of all who talk about peace.

'Abbas Zaki expressed the belief that Shamir seeks to divert attention away from Soviet and Eastern European Jewish immigration to Israel and to embark on an openly large-scale Zionist scheme to expel Palestinians from their lands, massacre them, build more settlements, and obliterate the Arab features of Palestinian cities and villages.

Commentary on Israel's 'Calculated Disagreement'

JN1503081490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1943 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Commentary by WAFA-PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY political editor: "Do Not Wager on a Calculated Disagreement"]

[Text] Have we thoroughly examined this raging clamor inside Israel? Will the Arabs continue to wager on a dispute that will lead to more waiting until the Knesset meets to set a date for new elections that will be preceded by an interim government? The period before a decision is taken may continue until the beginning of U.S. Congressional elections, which could continue until the beginning of the U.S. presidential election campaign. This puts us into an endless whirlpool. We do not believe that anyone who follows events in the Arab region does not know Israel's maneuvering methods. This maneuvering, we believe, moves in one direction agreed upon by the Israeli leaders. This line constitutes fabricating crises to preoccupy the world public opinion and spare Israeli leaders the task of defining their stand on the issue of a just a comprehensive peace. It also enables them to gain time to take measures to entrench the occupation, headed by the gravest plot being carried out against the Palestinian people, represented by the Soviet Jewish emigration and flooding the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem in particular with settlements and immigrants.

We do not believe that what happened inside the Israeli political ring will yield any significant results in favor of a just and comprehensive settlement; in fact, it is an attempt to confuse matters and distract world attention [passage indistinct] during which the terrorist Israeli leadership imagines that it can resolve the issue of the intifadah in order to weaken the Palestinian card. This is proved by the fact that when the time for decision making came, we saw that a furious Rabin left the door half-open, just like other Labor leaders, and made statements in which he was eager to stress that Jerusalem is unified and that it is under Israeli sovereignty. He also affirmed that U.S. President Bush, who went back on his remarks about Jerusalem, has spared Israel the danger of confrontation with the U.S. Administration. This is also proved by the fact that in the Israeli scenario there is room for perpetuating the crisis without reaching a decision in order to waste more time, which the Likud and Labor deem necessary in order undermine the Palestinian peace initiative and return the situation to square one, despite the expulsion of the Labor Party head from the cabinet.

Whether what is expected is confirmed or so-called dramatic surprises take place, we assert that Jerusalem, according to the Palestinian viewpoint, is the capital of liberated Palestine and that any allegation about the unification of Jerusalem is an act of extortion that the two allied parties in Israel are trying to develop into a condition, which will be totally rejected by the PLO. This also applies perfectly to the attempt to imply that the PLO has nothing to do with a Palestinian delegation and that it is not a party to negotiations. Matters have become clear. Henceforth, all illusions about the Israeli intentions regarding the peace process must fall. The Israeli peace, according to both Likud and Labor, means tightening the occupation, uniting Jerusalem, and exploiting time in order to pump hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews into the West Bank and Gaza Strip to create an situation that is too difficult to be overcome by those who are involved in their daydreams and who rely on the United States, whose president is going back on his position on the most important place toward which the sights of the Palestinians, Arabs, and all Muslims are directed: Jerusalem.

We will continue to sound the alarm. Debating issues ranging from the status of Jerusalem—whether it is unified, Palestinian, or divided—to the issue of representatives, and whether they are affiliated with the PLO or not, whether they live inside or outside Jerusalem, or whether they should include deportees or not, to early elections and a meeting over new alliances, the Israeli march of 1,000 miles of maneuvering will continue. Deportations, building settlements, repression, terrorism, and the war of annihilation will continue as desired by the Likud and Labor, as well as the U.S. Administration. Between the Likud and Labor, there is a calculated disagreement which places the supreme occupational, terrorist interest at the top of priorities and places settlement and unified Jerusalem over any consideration and over all alliances.

There is no need to wager on this disagreement. It exhausts efforts and is meant to utilize time to open new gaps in the Palestinian and Arab territory to settle Soviet and other immigrants as part of achieving the Zionist dream of establishing a state extending from the Euphrates to the Nile.

PLO Envoy Comments on Emigration of Soviet Jews

NC1003203590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0818 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Bonn, 10 Mar (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Ifranji, the PLO representative in Bonn, has stated that the prompt Arab moves regarding the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel have produced positive results. The Soviet Union has decided that the Security Council should be requested to discuss the emigration issue. In addition, there is an international tendency to reject the settlement of Jews in the West Bank and the Gaza strip under any circumstances. In an exclusive statement to MENA, he said that the immigration of huge numbers to Israel will not advance the peace process.

Al-Ifranji said that however great the number of Jews in Israel and whatever military might it attains, Israel will not have an opportunity to live in the region unless it belongs to the Middle East and becomes part of it. This, he said, can only materialize through understanding with the Palestinians and the PLO. He cautioned that Israel will try to benefit from this immigration to further strengthen its military capabilities and expansionist possibilities, not only at the expense of Palestine but also at the expense of the Arab world.

Al-Ifranji described Washington's reaction so far as illogical. He said that the United States could assimilate all Jews of the Soviet Union, but instead it closed its doors to Jewish emigrants in order to push them to go to Palestine. He said that, had they been given the chance to choose a new homeland, 98 percent of them would have chosen the United States.

Regarding German newspaper reports that the PLO is being subjected to great political pressure in light of the fact that the flexibility it exhibited failed to elicit a similar response in Israel, al-Ifranji said: We cannot say that it is pressure. We agreed in the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolution, when Yasir 'Arafat declared his initiative, that our attempt would be the last one demonstrating our good intention and the Palestinians' desire for peace. Al-Ifranji expressed his conviction that the PNC will review political efforts throughout the last three years. He pointed out that the PLO is a democratic organization, makes its decisions in a democratic way, and will comply with the PNC resolution. The PNC has shown that it is capable of making sound decisions at the right time, he said. He refused to comment on whether the decision would involve the possibility of a return to arms.

Fatah's Khalid al-Hasan Examines Ties With Syria

JN1503193090 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 14 Mar 90 p 12

[Text] Tunis, AL-BAYAN—Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Palestine National Council [PNC], declared yesterday that the PLO is continuing its efforts to normalize ties with Syria. He stated that the ball is now in the Syrians' court.

In statements to AL-BAYAN in the wake of the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' the day before yesterday [12 March], Khalid al-Hasan said: "The normalization of ties between the two sides is contingent upon the release of thousands of Palestinians held in Syrian jails, Syria's recognition of independent Palestinian decisionmaking and endorsement of the resolutions issued at various PNC sessions and Arab summits, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Abu-al-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] noted that preparations for a PLO Executive Committee delegation to visit Damascus "within a week or a month" cannot take the place of an official invitation for 'Arafat to visit Syria. He admitted that Syria is an important country occupying a geographically important position. He added that Syria's role is also necessary in everything related to the Palestine question. However, he stressed that the PLO can in no way afford to have its independent decisionmaking undermined.

The Fatah Central Committee member spoke on the general atmosphere that would lay the grounds for a normalization of Palestinian-Syrian ties. He said that Damascus' list of priorities in recent years has been topped by the situation in Lebanon. However, Syria has now found that its top priority must be to focus on the Palestine question, particularly in view of international changes and the massive immigration of Soviet, Eastern European, and Falasha Jews to occupied Palestine, al-Hasan added.

Palestinians in Kuwait Ask for PNC Elections

LD1603001490 Kuwait KUNA in English 1401 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 14 (KUNA)—A number of Palestinian figures living in Kuwait had signed a memorandum addressed to the Palestinian leadership asking for direct, democratic elections for independent members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] (parliament in exile).

The signatories said that those elections would fall in line with the PNC's basic regulations which stipulate holding them, and also moved for increasing the number of independent members.

They argued that challenges currently facing the Palestinian people and their uprising necessitate strengthening the internal Palestinian front and burying the gap between the PLO's offices, embassies and institutions on the one hand and the Palestinian communities worldwide on the other.

Affirming the necessity of such elections to allow nationalist and well-educated figures to participate in the parliamentary process, they expressed the conviction that free and democratic elections would greatly boost the PLO in the contemporary world where free and democratic choice was one of its basic principles.

The signatories expressed confidence that the Palestinian leadership would exert all efforts possible to respond to those popular demands.

Copies of the memo were sent to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, PNC speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, members of the PLO's executive committee and secretaries general of Palestinian commando factions.

The signatories included reporters, writers, artists, men of letters, doctors, lawyers, engineers, businessmen and university professors. They also included a former PNC speaker, former and current members, former and current heads of Palestinian unions, members of international organizations and former members of Fatah, the biggest component of the PLO.

Algeria

President Bendjedid Meets With National Press

LD1403233990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid had a meeting today at the Presidency with the national press and representatives of various mass media, including the opposition press such as SAWT ESC-CHAAB, organ of the Socialist Vanguard party; AL-MUNGID of the Islamic Salvation Front; TAQADDUM of the Socialist and Democratic Party; and MOUSTAQBAL.

During this meeting, which lasted more than four and half hours, the president talked about various points and issues raised by the journalists, and touched particularly on economic and political reforms and the changes in the Algerian society following the endorsement of 1989 constitution, as well as current international issues.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Bendjedid welcomed the national press. This meeting, he said, is to honor a promise made to journalists to exchange views with all journalists, without excluding anybody, and whenever necessary. The president then spoke on political and economic reforms. He stressed that these reforms were not the outcome of the October incidents. In this connection, he recalled that late in the 1970's he appealed for an emergency meeting of the FLN [National Liberation Front] to appraise the deteriorating situtation. However, this appeal did not bring any response, and consequently, at the beginning of the 1980's, action on restructuring the foundation of the economy began. The president stressed that the crisis of the 80's was solved thanks to the revenue from combustibles, and we accustomed the citizens to rely on the state for their needs. However, this crisis worsened sharply when the prices of combustibles fell and revenues declined.

The president stressed that proposals on political and economic reforms were on the agenda for a long time. These reforms were due to be debated during the sixth FLN congress; however, the situation warranted preparation of the political and psychological atmosphere for tabling these reforms.

Answering a question on the fears and hesitations of some people about these reforms, and also on blaming the FLN for the current crisis facing Algerian society, the president said: I committed myself before the Algerian people to implement these reforms, and I have honored my promise. These reforms were accepted by the people when it endorsed the constitution, and nobody can stand in the face of the will of the Algerian people, who have reached a degree of maturity and awareness that would permit them to choose freely. It is normal for people to fear these reforms, the president stated, especially people who have interests and privileges.

With regard to the attacks directed against the FLN, the president stressed that to deny all the achievements of the FLN, starting from the revolution of liberation to the revolution of edification, would be considered as a denial of truth. It is true that there are some shortcomings, but there are also positive points and achievements that nobody can deny; objectivity and frankness require one to admit shortcomings as well as positive points, he added.

Answering a question on his appraisal of the work of Mr. Hamrouche's government six months after its formation, the president stressed that he trusts the determination and work of this government, although such a short period is not long enough to allow for a full evaluation. He recalled that the assessment side is the duty of the National Assembly, within the framework of defining the performance of various state bodies. On his meeting with a number of opposition leaders, the president emphasized that he received a number of leaders of political parties; they exchanged views and these leaders expressed their readiness to contribute toward the edification of democracy.

Concerning a remark by a journalist about parties which use some parts of the constitution and ignore the other parts, the president answered: Officially speaking, we have not noted any abuses or violations of the constitution. If such abuses occur, the state will take the necessary measures to protect the democratic practice and support national unity.

On the possibility of dissolving parliament and conducting legislative elections, the president stressed that the matter does not arise at the moment and that the atmosphere is not suitable for creating a constitutional vacuum; when the opportunity arises and the suitable atmosphere exists, then the question can be put forward. At the moment, there is no need to stir new problems for the Algerian people.

With regard to the existence of political prisoners in Algeria, he stressed that there are no political prisoners in Algeria anymore; there are defendants, as far as public law is concerned. The president also dwelt on the free justice issue.

Answering a question on the information draft bill now being debated by the National Assembly, which includes a number of restrictions that would limit free speech and information, considered among the main pillars of the democratic process, the president noted that this is a law like any other that could be subject to reexamination if, once practically implemented, it transpires that it has shortcomings.

Answering a question on measures taken for the provision of basic goods during the month of Ramadan, the president indicated that the necessary measures have been taken for the provision of basic and necessary goods.

Before talking on international issues, the president spoke at length on the problems of youth, which represent one of his major concerns. In this connection he stressed the need to put an end to the convoluted discussions and attach importance to fundamental issues related to youth through education and employment. He recalled that the main points have been decided through the national foundations expressed in the state's basic laws. He encouraged Algerian youth to distance itself from imitation, and stressed the need to adhere to its Arab and Islamic identity.

The president then talked on a number of international matters and the work of Algerian diplomacy at Maghreban, Arab, African, and international levels. On his appraisal of the edification of the Maghreban unity, the president stressed that the results achieved so far are positive, as a number of achievements have materialized in comparison to the experience of others. He noted that there is a common desire from all sides to achieve this edifice. This was highlighted during various meetings on all levels. The president emphasised that the meeting of Maghreb country leaders next July in Algeria is likely to give a new impetus to this edifice.

With regard to the issue of Western Sahara, the president reiterated Algeria's firm stand regarding this question. He recalled its efforts to bring about direct meetings between the conflicting parties, in order to achieve a peaceful solution to this issue. In this connection, he expressed his optimism over the results achieved so far in organizing a referendum under UN and OAU supervsion, a solution agreed by both conflicting parties. The president added that Algeria will support the majority once this referendum has taken place.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, he said Algeria contributed toward the unity of Palestinian ranks. The president stressed the state's determination to continue this effort. He reiterated Algeria's firm positions in respecting the independent Palestinian decision and unconditionally supporting the Palestinian cause. As for the Lebanese issue, the president stressed that the tripartite committee worked hard to solve this crisis. He recalled that Algeria has never intervened to solve any problem unless it was insistently asked by the parties concerned. Algeria has a historic record and reputation that places it above seeking fame.

On cooperation prospects between the Arab Maghreb Union and the EEC, the president indicated that he encourages all fair cooperation that respects the interests of both parties. He expressed his support for opening dialogue between the two groups on a sound and equal basis. He expressed his readiness to open a responsible dialogue and hold meetings on various levels in order to achieve a working formula and cooperation between the two groups.

At the conclusion of his meeting with the press, the president stressed that the Algerian people should unite their ranks to achieve comprehensive development within the framework of clarity and democracy. In this connection, he emphasized the need to preserve the national cultural heritage, as it is a common heritage of all Algerians. He stressed that various forms of national dress give a choice for those who prefer to preserve their personal originality, instead of trying to imitate forms of dress that have nothing to do with our customs and national heritage. The president expressed his wish that all political parties would take a united stance when it comes to the positions of Algeria's foreign policy, which reflects the stand of Algeria and not that of a political party or a particular political tendency. He also expressed support for constructive opposition that would allow all dynamic forces to overcome the obstacles currently facing the country.

In conclusion, the president saluted the efforts of sporting youth, particularly the national football team, whose victory during the current African Cup tournament is a victory for all the Algerian people. The president, who answered the questions without any hesitation or reservation during his four and a half hour meeting with the press, talked about the way all Algerians should follow within the current multiparty system. He particularly stressed that to introduce democracy and face up to the current economic and political situation requires the collaboration of everybody's efforts, without exception.

FLN Central Committee Ends Closed Session

LD1603012290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The closed evening meeting of the extraordinary session of the Central Committee of the FLN [National Liberation Front] party ended a short while ago. It was marked by lengthy debate of the economic report, and three reports were adopted concerning finance, organization, and the strategy of the front and the economy, after they had been improved. On the other hand, the finance committee has been elected. Members of the Central Committee are due to return to the conference room in a short while in order to elect the control committee, and to announce the conclusion of the work of the extraordinary session.

Statements made by members of the Central Committee say that there has been a rapprochement in viewpoints, and that one can now speak about harmony within the Central Committee. As some members have affirmed, this session is considered the first of its kind since independence, as no session of the Central Committee had ever lasted six full days marked by four days of general debates.

Political Broadcast by Socialist Vanguard Party

LD1403143690

[Editorial Report] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1225 GMT on 14 March broadcasts a 10-minute party political broadcast by the Socialist Vanguard Party

[PAGS]. The unidentified PAGS speaker begins by saying that the party was created on 26 January 1966, not mentioning the fact that the PAGS was formed as a result of the change of name of the former Algerian Communist Party.

The representative goes on to say that the reforms were due to the sacrifices made by the masses during the liberation war and the martyrs of the October 1988 events. His party, he adds, is the party of the workers, the peasant farmers, the unemployed, the oppressed, the intellectuals, men and women alike, and not the party of the rich and the bourgeoisie. It defends the right to education, health care, and employment. It also defends the masses' purchasing power and calls for an increase in wages and salaries and the protection of basic commodity prices.

The representative insists on the need for a fair distribution of housing, stating that imported building materials should be used to build more houses for the people and not to build luxurious villas for the rich and the powerful. He calls on the unemployed to get togther and set up committees to press for jobs. He also appeals to the state to give peasant farmers guarantees that no one will take away the land they have been cultivating. The banks, he adds, should help the peasant farmers by granting them loans to save them from the clutches of unscrupulous usurers.

The representative then says that the workers should be given the right to set up their free democratically-elected trade-union for a real representation. He admits that the country is going through a serious economic crisis and indicates that no single party is capable of solving the problems alone, thus stressing the need for all parties and national figures to unite to find solutions and to fight high costs of living, unemployment and the black market, particularly on the eve of Ramadan, which sends prices soaring and unleashes the profiteers and the speculators.

Finally, the party representative calls upon the masses to organize themselves and to rely only on themselves and not to believe in empty promises made for electoral purposes.

Egypt

U.S. Embassy Said Involved in Spread of AIDS

JN1503181390 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
13 Mar 90 pp 1, 4

[By Mahmud Bakri]

[Excerpts] In a move that gave rise to extreme discontent among Egyptians and constituted a violation of all laws and norms, the American tourist with AIDS, William Charles, has been deported. The Jewish girl, Sarah, managed to flee the country after playing a dangerous role in spreading AIDS among many Arab and Egyptian youths, as well as the sons of several public figures. Information reveals that the U.S. and Israeli Embassies in Cairo are directly involved in Sarah's escape and the AIDS tourist's deportation.

From the moment the AIDS tourist was apprehended, the U.S. Embassy carried out high-level diplomatic contacts with Egyptian Government officials to request that Charles be treated as a psychological and physical invalid. It also asked that he be deported to the United States, alleging that he would receive treatment there.

The Egyptian authorities first turned down this U.S. request, and insisted on having him brought to trial in Egypt on charges of communicating the AIDS virus and committing immoralities with Egyptian children. However, the U.S. Embassy reiterated its demands, asserting that psychiatrists should be consulted to evaluate his case.

The Egyptian authorities proposed that he be examined by Egyptian psychiatrists. However, the U.S. Embassy insisted that he be examined by American psychiatrists, and declared that he would be brought to trial in the United States in accordance with American law. The embassy also warned the Egyptian authorities against keeping him in Egypt on the pretext that he was very dangerous to Egyptian citizens because he carried the AIDS virus. The embassy further indicated that the United States possessed extremely sophisticated equipment capable of determining the stages of the disease. The U.S. Embassy made the point that Egypt lacked the equipment to diagnose AIDS accurately.

Despite the differences between the U.S. Embassy and Egyptian officials, the Egyptian authorities recently agreed to deport the tourist, as long as the Health Ministry pronounced Charles' AIDS test negative, in an attempt to save face. That phase ended with Charles' deportation when the U.S. Administration promised that he would be brought to trial after being psychologically and physically treated. Meanwhile, the Egyptian security organs were unable to identify the victims with whom the spy practiced his abnormal inclinations and to whom he communicated the AIDS disease. [passage omitted]

Following the Egyptian authorities' initial interrogation of Charles, the security authorities sought to arrest Sarah in order to determine what prominent figures and youths she had slept with. When the authorities initiated a large-scale search in the areas she used to frequent, they found that Sarah had completely disappeared and there was no trace of her.

The strange thing is that the Egyptian security authorities were surprised when they found that the apartments in which Sarah stayed and carried out her activities were immediately leased to foreign figures. These figures refused to reveal who had helped them rent the apartments and denied acquaintance with Sarah or any Israeli diplomats.

The information said that Sarah was able to hide in one of the luxurious hotels for a few days by using a passport with her real name. She used the name of Sarah as a cover-up. The information also said that the Israeli Embassy played a major role in hiding her, minutes after Charles' arrest. The objective was to arrange her escape out of Cairo by choosing the right time.

American diplomats at the U.S. Embassy played a major role in the plan to spread AIDS in Egypt. The information revealed that two American diplomats have close relations with employees of the Israeli Embassy and that they co-hosted parties. These parties were confined to certain foreigners only and were held in an apartment rented with the knowledge of the American and Israeli Embassies. [Israeli Ambassador] Shim'on Shamir, Israel's spy in Cairo, attended some of these parties.

The information did not rule out Charles' and Sarah's participation in these parties. The AIDS tourist said during the investigation that he knew many foreigners in Egypt, noting that his friends are not only Israelis. When he was asked whether Sarah attended these parties, he refused to answer. However, he confirmed her close relations with employees from the American and Israeli Embassies.

During the investigation, a foreign figure cooperated in answering the security organs' questions. He said Sarah was dealing with two friends who were staying in a city outside Cairo. She introduced her two friends by different names and different job titles to those who met her while she was with them. The foreigner discovered this accidentally. Sarah used new names in introducing the two persons to this foreigner, forgetting that she had already introduced them by other names. This confirms that these individuals were from the Mosad. According to the information, this happened at a time when the two persons were frequently visiting the American Embassy, most likely because they are linked with the CIA. It is difficult for Israel to carry out a plan without obtaining the CIA's approval and support; the CIA also helps Israel to achieve its objectives.

The information stated that Sarah carried a diplomatic passport to be used if she faced any security problems, particularly since she had been working with the Mosad since 1980, and the Israeli authorities and their intelligence services usually ensure their agents' safety by supplying them with contingency plans, on which they are trained in Israel, should they face any danger.

Mubarak Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

NC1503145590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1301 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a congratulatory cable to His Excellency President Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, on his election as president of the Soviet Union. Following is the text of the cable:

I am pleased to send my most sincere congratulations on the precious trust of the Soviet people's deputies in you by electing you president of the Soviet Union. This election is regarded as a culmination of and victory for your prudent policy that aims to establish the bases of democracy, freedom, and reconstruction for the welfare and prosperity of the Soviet citizen.

Mr. President, please accept my best wishes for your success in your new task. I wish progress and prosperity for the ties of friendship and cooperation that exist between our two peoples. Please accept my highest respect and regard.

Shamir Urged To Break Deadlock Over Dialogue

JN1003153090 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Mar 90 p 5

[Editorial: "When Will They Break the Vicious Circle?"]

[Text] Has the world actually seen developments such as those happening in Israel over the past few months at the hands of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who has turned a purely procedural matter concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation—which he might condescend to talk to—into an issue that requires scores of meetings to be held by his so-called Inner Cabinet and Likud Party leaders? Shamir has remained incapable of taking a specific stance on this issue, which by itself is a peculiar thing in any negotiations between two disputing parties anywhere in the world.

The mere fact of seeing one party to a conflict interfere with how the other side will compose its delegation to peace talks is something unprecedented on the international scene, since this means that the this side seeks to dictate preconditions to the other side at the negotiating table. Such interference would torpedo the foundations of these talks. Regardless of all this, Shamir is adopting a strange stance on the issue, displaying hesitation, procrastination, and prevarication over the mere acceptance of compromises and proposals submitted by the United States and Egypt.

President Husni Mubarak has urged the Israeli prime minister to end his hesitation so that another necessary step toward peace efforts can be taken, assuring him that Israel will lose nothing if it agrees to negotiate with the Palestinian side, which has made formidable concessions to facilitate the attainment of a solution to the Palestine question.

Any Israeli politician or layman can easily see that the settlement of this conflict, which has disturbed peace in the Middle East for almost half a century, will be in the interests of the Israeli people, because such a settlement would give present and future generations calm and tranquillity. These generations cannot spend all their

lives amid threats and known as well as unknown dangers at a time when the attainment of an understanding would provide them with an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence—something that is indispensable to all world peoples.

Mubarak on Jordan's Involvement in Peace Process

NC1503145890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1304 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—Responding to a question by MENA on the prospects of the peace process following the recent developments in Israel, President Husni Mubarak said today that he is convinced King Husayn of Jordan will definitely join the peace talks if he sees serious progress in current efforts to promote a peaceful solution.

President Mubarak explained that he knows this from the close and continuing contacts with King Husayn and all the parties concerned with the problem.

Ghali Welcomes Iran's Release of Fishermen

NC1403163490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has welcomed the Iranian authorities's decision to release a group of Egyptian fishermen. Dr. Ghali said Egypt hopes that all Egyptian prisoners in Iran will be released.

Fishermen Arrive in Cairo

NC1403200090 Cairo MENA in English 1934 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, March 14 (MENA)—Twenty Egyptian prisoners of war who were held by the Iranian authorities arrived here tonight from Geneva after their release. They comprise 12 fishermen who were working in the Gulf water when they were detained and eight persons who were working in an oil company.

Mubarak Telephones King Fahd, Kuwaiti Amir

NC1603062190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak last night telephoned Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait. The three Arab leaders exchanged views on a number of Arab issues and certain recent developments in the region.

Mubarak Replaces Asyut, Sawhaj Governors

NC1503120890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Major General Hasan al-Alfi was sworn in as Asyut's new governor, and Major General Mamduh al-Bura'i was sworn in as Sawhaj's new governor. They took the constitutional oath before President Husni Mubarak at the Presidential Palace at noon today. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, director of the President's Office, were present.

Columnist Views Recent Violent Incidents

JN1403205290 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[Article by chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari: "'Political' Color Blindness and the Stirring up of Sectarian Sedition"]

[Text] We have been following closely over the past weeks a series of violent and extremist incidents. Some of these incidents were politically motivated. Others had a criminal sectarian dimension, and others were caused by negligence and carelessness that themselves are tantamount to organized crime. We could mention in this context the operation against the Israeli tourist bus, the sectarian al-Minya and Abu-Qurqas incidents, and the Sheraton fire. These are examples of various incidents and violence having different methods, objectives, and heroes. If we add to all this other incidents that have taken place here and there—such as those in al-Fayum and Asyut and elsewhere, we find ourselves facing a plan that I can only describe as a stupid plan for far more stupid incidents.

Although the objectives are nonexistent, the evil intentions do exist and the deception and sedition cannot be missed by any sound mind. These incidents are also childish incidents, although they are premeditated and preplanned. Describing these incidents as childish is not to play down their importance or impact but to emphasize their dangerous nature. Childish acts, because they are irresponsible, inflict more harm. However, these incidents harm their perpetrators before harming others. Those who play with fire are the first to be scorched by it.

Those who are immature—whether in years, or intellect, that is those who cannot discern—are those who implement acts of violence in all its various forms.

Many have gone far to explain that these and other incidents are calculated to test the strength and courage of the new interior minister, 'Abd-al-Halim Musa.

They also say that they are an attempt to exploit the atmopshere of tolerance the regime wanted usher in after [former Interior Minister] Zaki Badr. I believe that if the perpetrators are acting on this premise, then they are deluded. This is because the policy of the country is the policy of a political system and not that of an individual, even if this individual impresses his own stamp on events.

The country's stability is a continuing process, not a seasonal, whimsical, or personal one.

An political system worthy of respect reflects the security and diggnity of the people, parties, and organizations.

The problem in my opinion is that some politicians, or those who work for the politicians, are suffering from an abominable disease—political color blindness. There is no disease more dangerous than this in individuals, parties, or in plotters. When they see green as black, red as blue, and white as the color of tar, things will get mixed up, people will overlook the truth, and balance and justtice will be lost.

I believee that political color blindness struck some of our politicians, or those who believe themselves to be such, when they believed that chaos was democracy—as happened iin Sudan during the reign of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi—and that brutality, terrorism, and dictatorship were firmness, determination, decisiveness, and government prestige. Prestige means interaction and the mutual bearing of responsibilities between government institutions and leadership on the one hand and the people and their union, party, and legislative institutions on the other; it is a mutual responsibility for the homeland, its development, stability, and progress.

Political color blindness might make some people believe these days that some trends have accomplished something in a close sisterly country and that an appropriate opportunity has presented itself. I am referring to the Islamic trend in Jordan. As political color blindness deceived some people in the previous cases, the case in Jordan is certainly more deceptive to them. It is a mixture and accumulation of factors in which general frustration, history, the special and distinguished relations between the Hashemite throne and this trend, and geography—in terms of neighborhood, refuge, and the challenge on the other bank of the river—all played a role. We cannot discuss this subject any more than this, particularly in terms of comparison. In conclusion, the circumstances are different and the situation is different between here and there.

The challenge we are facing today is neither the challenge of collective suicide—to which some people are trying to push the homeland—nor the blind duplication in terms of color or politics of a phenomenon in this place or that place. The struggle is a struggle with ourselves to build this country, to fight the backwardness in this country, to create crucial production, to produce good products, and to follow an age and a world that is progressing each minute, throwing behind its back its chains, backwardness, despair and opening its mind, heart, and arms to work with mental and physical determination.

This is the road; and there is no other.

Let the traders in crime continue their designs, ignorance, agentry, and shame. Time is in favor of the vigilant, responsible, and committed workers.

Libya

March in Al-Khums Against U.S. 'Imperialism'

LD1503182490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Mar (JANA)—An angry march took place this morning in the municipal district of al-Khums, denouncing the American imperialist aggressive campaign against the Great Jamahiriyah. The march proceeded through the streets and squares of the town of al-Khums with people brandishing banners and green flags, shouting long live the leader, the destroyer of prisons and the supporter of those wronged. Demonstrators denounced the American aggressive campaign against the Great Jamahiriyah, and underlined their preparedness to defend the soil of this homeland against any power seeking to harm it or to encroach upon it. They also shouted that the Jamahiriyah would be the rock against which imperialism would be smashed.

FRG Official Cited on Tripoli Demonstration

NC1503185390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1714 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Bonn, 15 Mar (MENA)—A spokesman for the West German Foreign Ministry has said the situation outside his country's embassy in the Libyan capital of Tripoli has calmed down. He added that the Libyan demonstration outside the embassy today broke up without any damage.

In a statement to MENA correspondent, the spokesman said Mr. Fuller, director of the West German Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, protested today to the minister plenipotentiary at the Libyan People's Bureau in Bonn over the blockade of the German Embassy in Tripoli and asserted that the Libyan authorities are responsible for providing security for the embassy and its staff.

The spokesman pointed out that the German ambassador in Tripoli had visited the Libyan Foreign Ministry where Libyan officials told him that no official parties were behind the demonstrations around the embassy.

OAU Secretary General Visits, Holds Talks

Meets Foreign Liaison Secretary

LD1403101890 Tripoli JANA in English 1753 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi [March] 12, JANA—Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau met this morning Salim Ahmad Salim the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) who is visiting Great Jamahiriyah nowadays [as received] to conduct contact and consultations regarding OAU work.

During the meeting, Salim Ahmad Salim expressed appreciation for the stances of principle of Great Jamahiriyah towards firm backing of the African causes and its continued keenness to explore the point of view of Jamahiriyah towards world issues in its capacity as one of the states which exerts continued efforts to serve the African causes and the continued efforts from the leader of the revolution to confirm the freedom and the progress of the African man and his continued defence in backing and supporting African issues.

During the meeting they discussed and reviewed the political situations in the world and the extent of their effect on African matters apart from economic and social matters of interest to the Arab-African cooperation.

Gives TV Interview

LD1403102690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brother Salim Ahmad Salim, the OAU secretary general, arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The television held an interview with brother Salim which we are going to follow now.

[Begin Salim recording] First of all, I would like to point out that my visit to Libya is in the framework of the continuous consultation about the latest developments in our continent and this comes as an affirmation of the importance of the special weight represented by Libya within the OAU and its effective and influential role on the international level. Thus my visit is for me to get acquainted with the viewpoints of the Jamahiriyah about these new developments and the way to resist the challenges facing the continent. This is an opportunity to stress the anxiety and the uneasiness of the OAU with regard to the campaign led by the United States against Libya. We call for facing this campaign by affirming the right of the people to their choices and to be left to live in peace and security.

As far as the Zionist infiltration in Africa and its cooperation with the racist regime, which is the cooperation that has been condemned by the United Nations, we call on all the African states to resist this infiltration and to be careful about its dangers which threaten the whole of Africa. We in the OAU are aware of the link between the provocations in the north of the continent and the situation in its south.

With regard to Zambia's summit, I say that its discussions will focus on the situation in South Africa and the Zionist infiltration in the continent and some of the other matters and issues related to the repercussions of the changes in the world on Africa. Thank you. [end recording]

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1503215890 Tripoli JANA in English 1826 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi [March] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received today Salim Ahmad Salim the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) who is on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah nowadays. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau.

Interviewed on Visit, Al-Rabitah

LD1503221290 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Yesterday we interviewed Salim Ahmad Salim, Organization of African Unity [OAU] secretary general. First, we asked him about his impressions on meeting the brother leader of the revolution, and on his current visit to the Jamahiriyah, especially under the current circumstances of U.S. imperialist provocations. He answered:

[Begin Salim recording in English fading into Arabic translation] As you said, I had a very useful meeting with the (?Libyan) leader, brother al-Qadhdhafi. I found him in a very—how do you call it—very inspiring mood. We discussed at length the problems which face our continent, especially those concerning the political developments on the continent and in the region of southern Africa; the conflicts among the African countries and within Africa; and the urgent need for united collective African action to solve Africa's problems, so that we will be able to exploit our resources for the development of our peoples.

I think that Africa's need for united collective action, a matter stressed by brother al-Qadhdhafi, has become more important in light of current events in the international arena. We can see an increasing tendency in the European countries toward unity. There is a rapprochement between East and West, especially between the Soviet Union and the United States. Therefore, the African countries need for united collective action is to enable them to face up to the challenges in this phase.

Concerning the difficulties or challenges which face the majority of the African countries, including Libya, I quite frankly think that the best way to face up to these difficulties, challenges, and problems is for Africa to start believing that the problem of each African country is a problem for the rest of the continent. I also think that our solidarity is what makes Africa strong, and what makes every African country strong and able to face up to all the foreign pressures. [end recording]

About the U.S. threats against the pharmaceuticals factory in al-Rabitah, the OAU secretary general said:

[Begin Salim recording] I think that the Great Jamahiriyah has very clearly explained its position and has

shown that the allegations about this factory were completely unfounded. I think that they went further than that and said that they were ready an inspection of the place. I think that this is a very reasonable stance. I learned that among the European countries there are some who consider that this stance by the Great Jamahiriyah is a just stance. We perfectly understand the fact that there is a strong U.S. hatred of Libya. However, I think that it is regrettable that while there are tendencies toward rapprochment in the world, and while the superpowers are working toward arranging this, and while the tendency toward dialogue and understanding is growing, we find a mobilization for a confrontation with Libya, which is a small country—and no one today could really think that Libya could constitute a threat to the security of any superpower or big country. I hope that this problem, of the current tendency toward confrontation, will be solved and peaceful action taken in order to calm the anxiety of all sides. [end recording]

Ends Visit, Departs 14 Mar

LD1503221490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1110 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Mar (JANA)—Brother Salim Ahmad Salim, the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this morning after visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. During his visit, Salim Ahmad Salim held contacts and discussions on the OAU's work.

Ghanaian PNDC Official, Delegation Arrive

LD1003215990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1711 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Mar (JANA)—Captain Kojo Tsikata, member of the Ghanaian Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] in charge of foreign affairs and security, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening. Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir was in the forefront of those welcoming them.

Captain Tsikata emphasized the depth of relations between Ghana and the Great Jamahiriyah. He said that he will discuss ways of strengthening relations between the two friendly countries. He also emphasized the fateful solidarity of the two countries in confronting imperialist, Zionist, and racist conspiracies.

Captain Tsikata is accompanied by a delegation consisting of Dr. Kwesi Botchwey, the secretary for finance and economic planning; Hudu Yahaya, the secretary for trade and tourism; Akuoko Sarpong, the secretary for health; [words indistinct] and (Muhammad Shambas) the deputy secretary for foreign affairs.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1203115990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Mar (JANA)—The leader of the revolution today received Kojo Tsikata, member of the Ghanaian National Defense Council and responsible for external affairs and national security, who delivered to the leader a letter from Captain Jerry Rawlings, the president of the Ghanaian National Defense Council.

The Ghanaian official conveyed to the leader of the revolution the solidarity of the Ghanaian National Defense Council and people with the Libyan Arab people in their steadfast resistance against American provocations. Also, he conveyed to the leader of the revolution the greetings of Captain Jerry Rawlings.

Officials Hold Talks

LD1203120490 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met yesterday evening in Tripoli with brother Mohammad Chambass, the deputy secretary for foreign affairs in Ghana, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, which was attended by the Ghanaian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, the two sides discussed the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways to bolster and develop them in all fields.

Received by Abu-Bakr Yunis

LD1503143990 Tripoli JANA in English 1836 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi [March] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir received this morning [13 March] Capt. Kojo Tsikata the member of the Provisional Defence Council in charge of foreign affairs and national security in Ghana and his accompanying delegation.

Delegation Ends Visit

LD1503144790 Tripoli JANA in English 1846 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi [March] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Capt. Kojo Tsikata the member of the Provisional National Defence Council in charge of foreign affairs and national security in Ghana and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli today at the end of a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Col. Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir headed the farewell ceremony for Capt. Tsikata and his accompanying delegation.

Before his departure from Tripoli, Capt. Tsikata told JANA that his visit to Great Jamahiriyah and [as received] positive and that the cooperation in economic, commercial and social fields between the two countries were reviewed.

And on the U.S. threats to Great Jamahiriyah Capt. Tsikata said "We express our belief that no country had the right to interfere in the internal affairs of another country... and we as an African country feel very worried

when a sisterly African country is threatened by a super power and in such case we confirm our solidarity with our brothers in Great Jamahiriyah".

Al-Qadhdhafi Cables Sudan's Al-Bashir 13 Mar

LD1403113590 Tripoli JANA in English 1453 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi [March] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has reconfirmed that the daring and unionist decision taken by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in sisterly Sudan, specifying the opening of the borders of Sudan to the Arabs has come as a response to the call given by the great al-Fatih revolution repeatedly to eliminate the artificial borders.

In a telegram sent to Lieutenant General al-Bashir the leader of the revolution has said that he hopes that other Arab rulers will do likewise regarding this daring and brave decision. It is incumbent upon them to realize the worthlessness of regionalism and artifical borders of which we have only reaped disintegration, dismemberment, weakness and the breaking ranks of the one people.

General People's Congress Message to Arab Leaders

LD1303102490 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 12 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—On the conclusion of its 16th session held recently, the General People's Congress has sent a telegram to Arab presidents and kings pointing out that the Arab nation is facing now a most dangerous and critical situation.

Stemming from its pan-Arab responsibility and in devotion to the struggles waged by our nation throughout history, the above congress calls upon these heads of Arab governments to take a collective stance to face up to these dangers spearheaded by the emigration of Soviet Jewry to occupied Palestine and the role assumed by the U.S. in financing this emigration enabling these Jews to settle in Arab lands in occupied Palestine.

Congress has brought to the attention of these heads of states the danger posed to the sources of Arab waters such the dangers posed against the Nile, the Euphrates, the Jordan River, al-Asi, etc. These dangers intensify the problem of foodstuff security in the Arab homeland.

The telegram calls upon these heads of Arab states to close ranks to encounter their enemy taking into consideration the transformations taking place worldwide.

Arab unity is the decisive reply to these dangers and to the state of disintegration characterising the Arab countries.

Congress has called upon these heads to put into practice the proposal for Arab unity put forward by the leader of the revolution.

The telegram concludes that the rank and file of Arab masses are well aware that the mobilisation of economic, military, human Arab potentials within the formula of a unionist proposal is capable of replying to the schemes of the enemies of the Arab nation and those concocting these machinations.

The telegram urges Arab heads of states to march forward and the revolutionary stuggle continues.
[Signed] General People's Congress

Mauritania

Foreign Minister on Dispute With Senegal

PM1203143190 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 9 Mar 90 p 33

[Interview with Foreign Minister Cheikh Sidi Ould Baba by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: Some reports say that President Maaouiya Ould Taya's dismissal of Interior Minister Colonel Djibril Ould Abdellahi, who was a hardliner on the conflict with Senegal, was a significant indication of Mauritania's desire to settle the issue, particularly as the interior minister was the regime's number two man.

Ould Baba: Such reports are untrue and totally wrong. The former interior minister had no influence. He carried out the policies of the government and of President Maaouiya. In other words he had no role in determining whether the issue is settled or not, and he also was no more of hardliner than any Mauritanian on this particular matter. We want our rights, we do not want to cause problems.

AL-HAWADITH: How true are the claims that Israel may be playing a direct role in intensifying this conflict as part of its own conflict with the Arabs, its aim being to open more fronts in unexpected places?

Ould Baba: Israel may be playing a part in the framework of international Zionism and in international circles hostile to the Arabs and Islam. Israel is always the spearhead in such cases, but it is difficult for it to play a direct role. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The latest Egyptian mediation is not the only mediation. It was preceded by mediations by African leaders and by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. Why did all these mediations fail?

Ould Baba: The mediations have failed because Senegal does not want to admit that this issue was raised because of the deteriorating internal situation. Even if Senegal could solve all its internal problems, it still would not want to solve its external problem with Mauritania. It

feels that its fabrication of this crisis has succeeded in diverting attention from internal matters. The past mediations failed because of Senegal's intransigence, which was due to internal causes and because Senegal raised irrelevant unrealistic issues. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Let us talk about the Egyptian mediation undertaken by Organization of African Unity [OAU] Chairman President Husni Mubarak. How would you assess it at this point, months after it started?

Ould Baba: President Mubarak is doing his best to solve the problem, but his initiative is faced with Senegal's intransigence.

AL-HAWADITH: Egypt has suggested a settlement of the dispute in two stages, the first being the suspension of media campaigns and withdrawal of military forces, and the second being discussion of essential issues of compensation, return of deportees, and the border issue raised by Senegal. What does Mauritania think of the Egyptian proposal?

Ould Baba: We believe that there are no border problems between Mauritania and Senegal. The Mauritanian side agreed that President Mubarak's September plan was a good basis for a solution and we accepted it but Senegal did not.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the results of the efforts of the committee assisting President Mubarak in resolving the crisis?

Ould Baba: The committee held meetings in Nouakchott and Dakar and it made proposals which, as usual, were rejected by Senegal which refused to discuss the main issues and raised issues unrelated to the dispute.

AL-HAWADITH: What were the committee's proposals and what is Mauritania's concept of a solution?

Ould Baba: Throughout the previous mediations we gave our views to all the committees and delegations which visited Nouakchott. They are that efforts should be made to provide security for the Mauritanians still living in Senegal. They are living under tragic conditions. They total 250,000. There were 500,000 Mauritanians in Senegal. Half of them have returned to Mauritania but the other half are still there and we know nothing about them. We request the return of our citizens, the release of their funds held by the Senegalese authorities, and compensation for the rest of the Mauritanian properties in Senegal. We agree to pay compensation to the Senegalese.

AL-HAWADITH: Has Mauritania committed itself to the suspension of media campaigns against Senegal?

Ould Baba: We have committed ourselves to the suspension of the media campaigns in accordance with President Mubarak's proposals.

AL-HAWADITH: What about President Mubarak's latest meeting with the Mauritanian and Senegalese foreign ministers?

Ould Baba: The meeting did indeed take place but, because of Senegal's intransigence, it produced nothing new. We hope that a solution will be found before President Mubarak's chairmanship of the OAU expires. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: There have recently been concerted Mauritanian moves in the direction of the Arab states to obtain some aid. Have these moves been successful?

Ould Baba: Mauritania has received some Arab aid in its crisis with Senegal and we fully appreciate that, of course, but we would like more.

AL-HAWADITH: Was there military aid?

Ould Baba: Not at all. There is no military dimension to Arab aid.

AL-HAWADITH: For health reasons which necessitated the absence of President Maaouiya Ould Taya, you headed your country's delegation to the recent Maghreb Union summit in Tunis. How do you assess that summit?

Ould Baba: The summit results were fully positive. Many initiatives were made and resolutions adopted in the field of economic and social coordination. Committees were formed to enhance and strenghten cooperation between the Arab Maghreb states. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Are relations with France still tense because of France's support for Senegal's position?

Ould Baba: There is no tension in French-Mauritanian relations, which are good. France did not support Senegal's position. It declared complete neutrality on this issue.

Morocco

SFRY Foreign Minister Arrives for 3-Day Visit

LD1203162390 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Rabat, 12 Mar 90, MAP—SFRY Minister of Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar, arrived today in Morocco on a three-day official visit at the invitation of his counterpart, Abdellatif Filali. [passage omitted]

Talks With Foreign Trade Minister

LD1303132590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs, Budimir Loncar, who arrived this morning in Morocco on an official visit, has held talks with Minister of Foreign Trade Hassan Abu-Ayoub. The talks dealt with ways of reinforcing cooperation between Morocco and

Yugoslavia in the commercial and economic fields. The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the Yugoslav foreign minister, the ambassador of Yugoslavia in Rabat, and a number of the Foreign Trade Ministry's cadres. [passage omitted]

Meets With Premier Laraki

LD1403125390 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Rabat, March 13. (MAP)—Yugoslva Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budmir Loncar was received, Monday in Rabat, by Premier Azzeddine Laraki.

Laraki on the occasion expresed satisfaction at this visit which consecrates the resumption of bilateral relations. He stressed the role both countries had played throughout history, mainly as co-founders of the Non-Aligned Movement. Relations between Morocco and Yugoslavia were reestablished in 1988 after four years of severance.

Laraki also dwelt on changes underway in the world and stressed the need to assess their eventual incidence on the Non-Aligned Movement and on east-west and north-south relations.

Loncar for his part paid tribute to King Hassan II for his leading role and efforts toward dialogue and peace, mainly at the Arab and African levels.

The two officials reiterated determination to upgrade and consolidate bilateral relations, mainly through economic cooperation and joint ventures.

Loncar had conferred the same day with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali. Talks focused on international issues, mainly changes underway in Eastern Europe and future orientations of the Non-Aligned Movement, and on means to upgrade bilateral cooperation in all areas.

Loncar had also conferred, the same day, with Minister of Trade and Industry Abdallah Azmani, on means to promote bilateral trade exchanges. The Yugoslav official had arrived here earlier on Monday on a three-day visit at Filali's invitation.

Received by King Hassan

LD1503184490 Rabat MAP in English 1158 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Agadir, March 14. (MAP)—King Hassan II, accompanied by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, received Tuesday in Agadir, Yugoslav Federal Secretary to Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar. The royal audience was attended by Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali and Yugoslav Ambassador to Morocco Dimitrije Babic.

The sovereign, accompanied by the crown prince, received the same day Abdelati Obeidi, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League.

The audience was attended by the king's adviser Ahmed Reda Guedira, Foreign and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali and Minister of the Interior and of Information Driss Basri.

Meets Parliament Official

LD1503184790 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Rabat, March 14 (MAP)—Morocco and Yugoslavia intend reinforcing their relations and joining efforts in favour of dialogue, peace and democracy worldwide.

Affirmations in this sense were made during a meeting, Tuesday in Rabat, between visiting Yugoslav Federal Secretary to Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar and first deputy-speaker of the Moroccan Parliament Jalal Essaid.

The two officials expressed satisfaction at efforts by both countries to upgrade bilateral economic cooperation and trade exchanges. They however acknowledged this cooperation remains well below desired level. Both expressed determination to reinforce and enlarge their cooperation in all areas, mainly through greater exchange of visits by MPs and other officials. Morocco and Yugoslavia have resumed diplomatic relations in 1988 after four years of severance.

Essaid, who briefed his guest on Morocco's options and concerns, recalled that the U.N. has unanimously approved its secretary general's peace plan for the Sahara, aimed at holding a referendum there.

Loncar had arrived here on Monday.

He was received by King Hassan II on Tuesday and by Premier Azzeddine Laraki on Monday.

He has also conferred with Foreign and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali and with Minister of Trade and Industry Abdallah Azmani.

Ends Visit, Departs

LD1503185190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Yugoslav Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar left Morocco today. He was seen off at Agadir-Ansgan Airport by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali.

The Yugoslav official gave a statement in which he stressed the importance of the talks which he held during his visit to the Kingdom, and described them as very positive. He also expressed his hopes that both the Moroccan and Yugoslav Governments would work toward consolidating the existing cooperation between the two countries to include all fields, and toward giving the Nonaligned Movement a new dynamism, as Morocco and Yugoslavia are among its founders.

Sudan

Rebel Army Claims Maridi Enemy Outpost Captured

EA1403144490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of the "Bright Star Campaign", Phase Three, captured an enemy outpost two miles from Maridi army barracks on Tuesday, 13 March 1990. The outpost fell at 0400. Three enemy soldiers were killed and many wounded.

The enemy soldiers ran in disarray to the main barracks, leaving behind the following military equipment in good working condition: a) one Gronov machinegun, number 7184; b) one mortar, two inches, number 144193; c) one G-three rifle number A-36552776; d) one pistol, number 105710; and one landrover with the plate number CK-4238 destroyed; and big quantities of G-three ammunition.

Rebel Recruitment by Force, Executions Noted

EA1403160190 Khartoum SUNA in French 0922 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA)—According to reports in the daily "AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH" from the scene of military operations in the south of the country, the rebel forces of Garang have started recruiting elements by force, notably from among the Dinka and Nuer tribes around the al-Subat River, in order to confront the problems affecting the movement. According to the same sources, elders of the Dinka tribe have been executed for not having encouraged youngsters to join the rebels' recruitment camps.

Al-Bashir Decree Creates Consultative Council

EA1203083090 Khartoum SUNA in French 0920 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum 11 Mar (SUNA)—The chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, NSRCC, General 'Umar al-Bashir, on Saturday, 10 March decreed a decision, allowing for the creation of a consultative council attached to the NSRCC Political Committee. According to the decision, the chairman of the Political Committee is in charge of appointing members of the planned consultative council.

Moreover, Gen. al-Bashir has promulgated another decision stipulating the creation of department for political coordination between provinces, which will also form part of the NSRCC Political Committee. According to the decision, the department will be placed under the control of a Council for Political Coordination Between Provinces.

We should note that the Council for Political Coordination Between Provinces will be chaired by the chairman of the NSRCC Political Committee and is made up of the provincial political supervisors, provincial governors, the commissioner of the capital, the chairmen of the National Salvation Committees, the coordinator general, the coordinators of the capital's regions, the Political Committee members, and other members who will be appointed by the chairman of the Political Committee.

Al-Bashir Appoints Political Committee Advisers

EA1303164090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the prime minister, today issued a decree appointing advisers to the political committee. Here is the text of the decree:

In accordance with Clause 6 (D) of the third constitutional ordinance of 1989, and after the briefing on the recommendation by the chairman of the political committee of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], the following is decreed:

1. The following have been appointed advisers in the political committee of the RCC, with central minister portfolios. They are: Dr. 'Abd-al-Sami'ah 'Umar Ahmad, Mr. 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Jabir 'Abd al-Jabir 'Abd-al-Atif, Aldo Ajo Deng.

2. The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, and the Bureau of the Service Department are to take the measures required by the execution of this decree.

RCC Official Meets Saudi Economic Delegation

EA1403161090 Khartoum SUNA in French 0924 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA)—On Tuesday [13 March] Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and chairman of the economic committee, received a Saudi Arabian delegation which is participating in the symposium aiming at promoting Arab and foreign investment in the Sudan.

Shaykh ('Abd-al-Aziz al-Sudayri), head of the Saudi delegation, announced in a news statement after the meeting that the delegation had appreciated the government's concern regarding investments, and paid tribute to Arab cooperation directed towards the development of the Sudanese economy.

Tunisia

Border With Libya 'Open as Usual'

LD1603002490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpts] It was confirmed yesterday afternoon that fire broke out at the Libyan al-Rabitah plant, located at some

80 kilometerss south of the capital Tripoli and specializing in the mmanufacture of medicines and pharmeceutical productss. [passage omitted]

Authorized scources in Tunis have said that, contrary to rumors from some foreign news agencies, no statement has been issueed from any responsible quarter in Tunisia over the fire that broke out in the al-Rabitah pharmaceuticals mamufacturing plant. All that happened was that the AFP' correspondent had contacted the Interior Ministry to ;ask about the situation at the Tunisian-Libyan borderr, and a reply was given to him to the effect that the situattion was normal, and the borders were open as usual.

As for the RIEUTER correspondent, he may have contacted the Imterior Ministry, but he did not identify himself, and lhe did not ask any questions.

Ben Ali on IPlura'ism, Middle East Peace

JN07032207990 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Mar 90 pp 5, 9

[Interview with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by Samir Rajab in Tunis—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Rajab] Your Excellency the president, relations betweem Egypt and Tunisia are now distinguished. What is yourr concept of the future of these relations, especially in tthe nineties?

[Ben Ali] Yes, relations between Tunis and Egypt entered a distlinguished stage on 7 November. In our first official decisiion in foreign affairs, we supported the resumption of Arab-Egyptian relations at the Amman summit. Them, at the Casablanca summit we welcomed Egypt's return to the Arab League. Bilateral Tunisian-Egyptian meetings were increased on various levels. This brought about more coordination in the policies of the two countries on the most important Arab and international problems.

The official tirip by President Husni Mubarak to Tunis, the exchange of visits between the Tunisian prime minister and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, the meetings of the joint higher committee, and the results of these meetimgs—for example, numerous cooperation agreements—have had a great effect on elevating relations to their present good level. My meeting with His Excellency President Mubarak will be an opportunity to continue negotiations and to exchange opinions on issues of mutual bilateral, Arab, and international concern. [passage omitted]

[Rajab] Your Excellency, incidentally, what has the pluralistic experience added to the political map in Tunisia?

[Ben Ali] Whoever has been following political events in Tunis knows that pluralism, which was an essential choice to bring about change, has become one of the priorities of the comprehensive reform policy we have followed since I took responsibility and which we are in the process of achieving steadily. Consolidating the pluralistic approach by considering it the most distinguished feature of the democratic course we have freely chosen, stems from our belief in the need to develop political life along with our people's maturity and awareness.

Stemming from this belief, ever since we started our reform program, we began to take political measures to spread the appropriate atmosphere for guaranteeing national reconciliation and for preparing the necessary climate to push the wheel of progress ahead and win the wager of the development battle.

We took care to consolidate the pluralistic democratic course by establishing the appropriate legal framework to ensure it is a civilized development and one that legal and state insitutions prevent us from reneging on. We are always trying to create the appropriate atmosphere for this new-born experience to grow, prosper, and strengthen itself in public life so as to become an accustomed tradition among Tunisians.

What pluralism has added to the Tunisian political map is that parties and various groups have started to contribute to the country's public life, thanks to guiding political action and to the use of dialogue, which includes the opposition in the process of finding solutions for many national issues. Thanks to the national charter we are constantly trying to institute, pluralism has lead to a democracy of accord. This accord is manifested in differences of opinion, in agreements, and in meeting on common ground among all Tunisians. Due to this policy, we have managed to put an end to the isolation and disregard that various groups suffered from. This, today, has created a feeling of satisfaction and determination to continue supporting pluralism among the majority of the opposition. [passage omitted]

[Rajab] Do you approve the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile in Tunisia?

[Ben Ali] The question of establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile is the concern of the Palestinain leadership only. Tunisia has always adhered to the principle of the independence of Palestinian decision-making.

On more than one occasion, Tunisia has proven its effective solidarity with the just Palestinian cause and its struggling leadership. It has not hesitated to renew its unconditional support for the struggle of the fraternal Palestinian people and their valiant intifadah, to enable them regain their legitimate rights on their usurped land.

[Rajab] The PLO's current position, as it has developed, does not oppose holding a direct Palestinian dialogue. What do you think of this dialogue? Can it pave the way for the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights?

[Ben Ali] Because we believe that a peaceful solution should take precedence over all other solutions, we support dialogue in principle. However, the choice of dialogue, its method, and the estimation of its benefit, are issues left to the PLO, in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The PLO's position has become clear and has developed greatly, because Palestinian initiatives reflecting the PLO's adherence to a peaceful solution and dialogue are numerous. This won great international support for the Palestinian cause, especially after the outbreak of the valiant intifadah. The Israeli stance, in contrast, has remained intransigent in the extreme. This has been demonstrated by the Israeli forces' continued intensification of suppression of the Palestinian people and their rejection of the principle of dialogue outside the framework of elections inside the occupied territories. Moreover, Shamir asserted in his last statement that Israel will cling to the occupied territories and will continue to build new settlements there.

Motivated by its constant position of support for the Palestinian cause and the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their rights and establish their state on their land, and in view of the PLO's many peaceful initiatives, Tunisia thinks it the duty of the Arab countries to adhere to the principle of the PLO's participation in the international peace conference. This is because, in the absence of other methods to advance peace efforts in the region, the conference is the best framework for dialogue among the concerned parties to establish a comprehensive, just solution to the Middle East dispute, particularly the Palestine question. This is especially true now that the UN General Assembly, the nonaligned countries, the Organization of African Unity, and Europe, have all firmly asserted the need for convening this conference, with the participation of the Security Council's permanent members and all the parties concerned with the conflict, including Palestine.

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Urges Moroccan Withdrawal

LD1203112590 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Following a meeting of the Polisario Front executive committee under the chairmanship of Mohamed Abdelaziz, a communique was issued that indicates in substance that the executive committee expresses satisfaction over the interest and commitment shown by the UN secretary general for a resolution of the Moroccan-Saharan crisis on the basis of UN and OAU resolutions, and of respect for the Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence.

While reaffirming its availability to cooperate with the United Nations and OAU, the Polisario Front reaffirms its deep conviction that the organization of a referendum on the self-determination of the Saharan people should be preceded by a withdrawal of the forces of the Moroccan administration and colonists and by the United Nations and OAU taking charge of the territory for a transitional period and until the results of the referendum are proclaimed.

Polisario's Hadrami on 'Repression' in Camps

LD1503232390 Rabat MAP in English 1202 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Rabat, March 14. (MAP)—Former "Polisario" founding member Omar Hadrami has once again called on the international community to undertake speedy action to save the Sahrawis sequestered in the Tindouf camps from increasing repression.

In a statement to media here, Hadrami said the camps' population are now subjected to "blind repression" in an effort to stop the successive waves of Sahrawis fleeing the Tindouf camps to return home to Morocco in answer to the royal call of clemency. Hadrami, who was also the Polisario's representative to North America, had returned home last summer in answer to a call of clemency by King Hassan II to all Sahrawis having been misled or gone astray. Since, several Sahrawis, including leading Polisario officials have reintegrated the motherland.

He said the new escalation in repression in the Tindouf camps, which is sparing nobody, is taking a new form: "disappearance". Hadrami specifically denounced the disapparence, after Saleh el-Admi's arrest, of Akhyar Rajjala Ould Sheikh el-Abadila in Algiers where he was in charge of the "Polisario" representation.

Rajjala had been the Polisario's representative to London and to Nigeria under the code name of "Kamal".

Hadrami called on all humanitarian organizations concerned with human rights to "act rapidly to save the lives of young people at the mercy of people with no scruple who are resorting to blind repression in the hope of avoiding their inevitable defeat".

The waves of back-home returns do not only concern those native of the Moroccan Sahara. Several leading Polisario members of Mauritanian and Algerian origin have also fled the camps and returned to their respective countries.

Kuwait

Shaykh Sabah Comments on Libyan Plant Fire

LD1603100990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0828 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 16 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Friday expressed profound regret at the burning of the Libyan pharmaceutical plant, saying the incident was against Libya and the Arab world interest. Replying to KUNA's query, Shaykh Sabah said "despite the conflicting and unconfirmed reports on the burning and damage the plant sustained, it is certain that it was not in the interest of Libya as well as the Arabs and we very much regret such an incident. Libya has said it was investigating into the possibility of Western intelligence agents being behind the al-Rabitah fire.

Newspaper Warns of Sabotage Plan Against Iraq

LD1603100690 Kuwait KUNA in English 0838 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 15 (KUNA)—Kuwait daily AL-QABAS Friday said that a sabotage act is being planned against vital Iraqi targets. According to Western information "there are sides who are counting the hours and the minutes waiting for that aggressive operation," the paper wrote editorially. Although Iraq is no easy target and can convert such an adventure to a disaster against the plotters, "our confidence in Iraq's strength will not stop us from confronting the Western and Israeli threats," it said. "It is the same old and boring tale: An Arab country tries to break the international arms monopoly by developing its technological and scientific capabilities then becomes a selected target for the big powers' threats and intimidation," the paper added.

The daily questioned why the West has the right to manufecture all kinds of lethal weapons and allows Israel and South Africa to do so while it forbids other countries including the Arabs.

Qatar

PRC Foreign Minister Delivers Message to Amir

JN1503171790 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Doha, March 15 (GNA)—The Amir of Qatar H.H. Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani received a written message from the president of the People's Republic of China Yang Changku. The message was delivered by the Chinese foreign minister Qian Qichen during an audience with H.H. the amir of Qatar this morning. The audience was attended by Qatar Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani and Qatari Foreign Minister Abdallah Ibn-Khalifah al 'Atiyyah. QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the message dealt with friendly bilateral relations and China's interest in bolstering them in various fields. The message contained a formal invitation from the Chinese president to H.H. the amir [who] has accepted the invitation and pledged to visit China at the earliest possible date, the agency added. It said that talks during the audience covered the situation in the region and the importance of achieving lasting peace and stability between Iraq and Iran through implementing all provisions of the Security Council Resolution 598 and resuming direct negotiations between the two sides under the sponsorship of the U.N. secretary general. H.H. the amir urged China, as one of the permanent members of the Security Council, to exert intensive efforts to support the U.N. secrertary general's efforts aiming at achieving peace between Iraq and Iran.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY also said that talks during the audience dealt with the latest Middle East developments and the Palestinian problem especially in connection with the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and their resettlement in the occupied Arab territories in flagra... violation to the principle of international law and the resolutions of the Security Council and the U.N. General Assembly. H.H. the amir of Qatar has underlined in this respect the importance of the role of China in supporting Arab efforts at the Security Council to issue a resolution condemning the resettling of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the Israeli occupied territories which makes a Middle East peace settlement more difficult. Talks during the audience covered recent worldwide changes and their repercussions on Third World causes in addition to a number of issues of mutual interest.

Meets With Heir Apparent

JN1503171990 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Doha, March 15 (GNA)—The Qatari Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani received today the Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen who arrived yesterday on an official visit. They reviewed developments at the international level as well as the situation in the Arab region, the Iraq-Iran conflict and the Middle East problem. They also discussed best means for developing relations between Qatar and the People's Republic of China in the economic, energy and foreign trade fields.

Further Reportage on 'British Spy' Bazoft Case

TV Reruns Interview, Shows Documents

JN1503184590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—Baghdad television tonight rebroadcast its interview last November with the British spy of Iranian origin, Farzad Rabati Bazoft. Bazoft carried out espionage activities in Iraq for Zionist and British circles.

During the interview, the spy related how he was recruited by Zionist and British circles, how he was trained to collect intelligence, and what tasks he was assigned to carry out in Iraq. He also talked about the British nurse who helped him to carry out his work and explained how he was arrested.

Baghdad television also showed other documents pertaining to some of the espionage activities carried out by the convicted spy Bazoft.

The first document was a map the spy drew of military and industrial establishments on which he was assigned to spy and gather intelligence information. The spy illegally infiltrated into prohibited areas in disguise and was preparing to send the map to Zionist circles, which had assigned him to infiltrate these areas and establishments and draw maps for them.

The second document: A map drawn by spy Bazoft of another position he was charged to collect information on in which he concentrated on military positions.

Spy Farzad Rabati Bazoft prepared a report on the positions he was charged to spy on. The report says:

The temperature was 46 degrees centigrade and it was a hot day. One of the citizens told me that the road to the position is closed and no one can reach it. I asked him for more information, but the Iraqi citizen said: I cannot tell you anything more because it is a matter related to one of my country's secrets and I will keep it to myself. You are a foreigner.

He also said the following in another place in the report: Despite this, I was the only foreign journalist who was able to enter a military area under the guise of an Indian doctor who wanted to supply medicine to the complex after a foreign television team failed to enter the area. I went under cover for a second time and reached an area very close to the military installation I wanted to get to and I was able to draw a detailed sketch of the installation which I will send later. The complex is a civic and military one; it is well protected by antiaircraft artillery and missiles. The explosion took place one day when some experiments were made.

The death sentence was carried out this morning on the British spy of Iranian nationality, Farzad Rabati Bazoft.

An Iraqi court handed down the death sentence against spy Bazoft after it was proven he was guilty and after he confessed to espionage in the interest of the British and Israeli intelligence.

'Aziz Reacts to British Measures

JN1503200490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Commenting on the statement the British foreign secretary made in the British House of Commons today and other statements by British authorities, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has said the following:

The Iraqi authorities have exercised their natural right to pass the death sentence on a person who carried out proven espionage activities for a hostile party; namely, Israeli intelligence, a charge to which he confessed during both his interrogation and trial.

The above mentioned person was given a legal trial. It was attended by the British consul in Baghdad. During the trial, the Iraqi authorities applied the Vienna Convention to the letter. Iraq will not allow anyone in the world to encroach upon its natural right to defend its security against espionage and aggression.

The uproar that the British authorities raised on this issue is full of ill will, lies, and contradictions. Iraq cannot submit to any form of threat, media and political blackmail, or other forms of intimidation.

The British Government's measures to recall the British ambassador in Baghdad and terminate the studies of a number of Iraqi students in England are actions whose consequences will be borne solely by the British authorities. Iraq will take no notice of any measure meant to pressure it with the aim of limiting its right to take action when the requirements of its national security so require. By taking such a position and by its behavior and premeditated campaign, the British authorities demonstrate anew that this nation has not yet renounced its worn-out colonialist mentality, that it continues to imagine that the peoples of the free world will do its bidding. This government's action brings to mind its long black, history of malice and plotting, which has been and still is the cause of disasters from which several world regions are suffering.

Tariq 'Aziz declared that Iraq's reputation and position in the world are not determined by the British foreign secretary, but are achieved by the will of its people who are proud of their brilliant genuine history, present achievements, and honest contributions in the service of the issues of liberation, progress, and peace.

The foreign minister warned any country pulled into this ill- intentioned campaign led by the British authorities.

The foreign minister also called on brothers, friends, and all just men to denounce this campaign that shows arrogant behavior that disregards the rights of the people and their competent authorities to adopt legal measures

within the framework of their sovereignty to protect the requirements of their national security.

Anti-British Protests Planned

JN1603084690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (WAKH)—The WAKH correspondent in Baghdad has learned that huge demonstrations will be staged tomorrow, Saturday [17 March], in all Iraqi governorates to express the Iraqi people's condemnation of the British Government's attitude toward Iraq.

Tens of thousands of Iraqi citizens are expected to take part in these demonstrations to express their rejection of the British extortion that followed yesterday's announcement on the execution of the British spy of Iranian origin, Farzad Bazoft.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz yesterday stated that Iraq will not accept any kind of threats or extortion, and warned other countries against being drawn into the British campaign.

Bazoft Reportedly Convicted 'Thief'

JN1603105390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] London, 16 Mar (INA)—The British news agency PRESS ASSOCIATION today revealed that the spy Farzad Bazoft, the Iranian national who carries a British travel permit, was a thief and sentenced to jail for robbing a British bank. It said that Bazoft stormed a bank and threatened to blow it up. He stole 475 pounds sterling, equivalent to $764. The agency added that a court in Northampton in the Midlands convicted Bazoft in August 1981 and sentenced him to 18 months in prison.

Arab Envoys in Moscow Denounce Anti-Iraq 'Scheme'

JN1603093690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, 16 Mar (INA)—The Arab Ambassadors Council in Moscow has expressed its absolute solidarity with the Iraqi people and leadership in their confrontation of the unjust British and Zionist campaigns against Iraq's national security.

The INA correspondent in Moscow said that at a meeting here today, the Arab ambassadors strongly denounced the media campaign and the political pressures launched and supported by the British, Zionist, and imperialist circles, and considered them an intervention in the affairs of an independent sovereign state that exercises its rights on the whole of its national soil.

The ambassadors also stressed that this campaign constitutes a suspect scheme aiming at attacking fraternal Iraq and that this scheme is not directed against Iraq alone, but the entire Arab nation.

PRC Trade Union Official, Delegation Arrive

JN1403161690 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 14, INA—Vice Chairman of All-China Federation of Trade Unions Chen Bingquan and accompanied delegation arrived here today on a several days visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the Chinese delegation will hold talks with officials in the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions concerning means of enhancing bilateral trade unionist cooperation.

Events Leading up to No-Confidence Vote Detailed

Shamir Addresses Knesset

TA1503121990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1120 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the Knesset in response to seven no-confidence motions—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Honorable Knesset: During the debate conducted today, mountains of slander, curses, and lies were poured on my head. I easily can turn back these false accusations, but I do not want to turn the Knesset into a wrestling arena of loathsome debates. That is why I will try, in my remarks, to refer strictly to the political and ideological framework of the issues in debate.

Knesset Members, the Jewish nation is undergoing revolutionary processes that only can be described in the most exciting terms. From the day the state was established, the course of Jewish history was changed. Here is the center, here is the heart. Here we are our own masters and are in control of our fate. Whatever is being done here has an effect on the Jewish nation throughout the diaspora. All the forecasts about this nation are being refuted. Who ever could have expected this nation would have to defend its very existence time after time and succeed in repelling its enemies? Who ever could have expected the earthquake of Israel's revival would be followed by waves of immigration to Eretz Yisra'el? Who ever could have believed the Iron Curtain surrounding the enormous Soviet bloc would fall, and that many of us would come here and return to the bosom of the Jewish nation on its land?

The nation in Israel is in the process of its formation and evolution as a sovereign nation in its sovereign state. The enemies still are at the gate. They as yet are far from beating their swords into plowshares. The state is being built, but the path toward settling all of its space still is long. Immigrants are coming in by the thousands. The national economy has not yet appropriately prepared for the tremendous challenge of their absorption and incorporation in the economy and society. In short, this gigantic operation still is being conducted.

One need not be a genius or very wise to know and realize the situation of the nation and the state requires us, the elected leaders in particular, to evince a great extent of loftiness and devotion, and above all, to remove barriers and demonstrate the utmost unity.

Ever since I first was nominated prime minister, I have not stopped preaching, demanding, begging, and urging the need for national unity. On more than one occasion, I gave up on certain stands and advantages for the sake of unity. This time I suffered false accusations and insults, and avoided responding to them for the sole reason of not breaking up national unity.

After the 1988 elections, my friends and I could have formed a government that was not a unity government. I decided to opt for unity, not to hurt other potential partners, but because I believed that to deal with the national challenges facing us required the government have as broad shoulders as possible.

Unfortunately, ever since the national unity government was formed some 16 months ago, I constantly have been attacked by certain elements, following the coalition negotiations that preceded the establishment of the government. These elements were in no way willing to accept that what I did, I did not for my own personal sake or for the sake of the movement I head, but only to enable establishment of the national unity government.

I have demanded on more than one occasion that Jewish communities and heads of Jewish organizations abroad avoid disagreement on various issues and aspire for unity, because only through unity could they help us—division only will serve our malefactors, those who want to save Israel from itself, as it were. That is why I can state, with all the weight of the responsibility bestowed on me, that I spared no effort, and gave up on no opportunity until the last moment, to maintain the national unity government.

The immediate reason for the crisis in the national unity government lies in the political activity in the promotion of the process that is to bring about peace between Israel and its neighbors. The pretext was the answer the Israeli Government was asked to provide to the question the U.S. secretary of state presented to Israel's foreign minister. The truth, however, is the background of the controversy which prevented us from providing an answer to this U.S. question is broader and deeper than might be assumed from the question itself.

On 14 May 1989, the Government of Israel endorsed and adopted a political initiative for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This initiative had very important advantages and potential. It was the outcome of accord and balance between the stances of the two main blocs in the government. It reflected an agreed stance, a national consensus. It gave us an answer to all the pressures and attacks from inside and outside, and allowed Israel to assume the initiative, instead of being led into initiatives that others had made. It was based on the Camp David accords, which laid the foundations for peace between Israel and its neighbors, and paved the way for peace between Israel and Egypt. It addressed all the components of the conflict, setting a realistic route for a comprehensive and all-embracing solution.

At the same time, the Israeli Government's political initiative contained a degree of risk and peril. Every plan proposing to settle this complex and profound conflict entails risks. It was clear a priori, therefore, that the initiative would bear fruit and that a certain success would be achieved if we move cautiously, if we stride together along the path of its implementation, if we

avoid creating cracks that can be misused by our enemies, if we do not allow any deviation from its content, route, and goals.

The United States declared it was adopting our peace initiative. From the very start of its implementation, however, difficulties and problems arose. Repeated attempts were made to dismantle the initiative into fragments, to take whatever part that suited whatever party and leave the others aside, to be forgotten and left void of all meaning. This is when they began dubbing the initiative the Israeli peace initiative—in order to direct it uniquely at the implementation of the clause dealing with elections among the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, while ignoring all the other clauses that address the refugee problem, relations between Israel and the Arab countries, and relations between Israel and Egypt.

In connection with the above, I would like to say that today Mr. Peres leveled harsh criticism against those same clauses which are part of the peace initiative, treating them as if they were my inventions or the Likud's. They are organic parts of the peace initiative, which was endorsed by the government and for which he had voted. I cannot understand how he could come to the Knesset today to level criticism and mock the same clauses that had been adopted by the government and ratified by the Knesset.

In addition, there were attempts to divert the initiative toward the PLO in various ways. Egypt operated in full coordination with the PLO. To our deep regret, signals and disruptive chords emanated from the United States, too, regarding the status and future of Jerusalem, as well as the PLO's involvement in the political process. The dangers surrounding our initiative grew steadily, to a point when sometimes it seemed the name of Israel's peace initiative was attached to an entirely different creature, which contained components unacceptable to us. We need—and we are obligated—to stand united and consolidated against these trends.

This is where I want to broach the issue of the conduct of our coalition partners from the Labor Party. I must say, first of all, that not all Labor ministers acted unanimously and in one direction, although what tipped the scales eventually was the voice of the Labor Party chairman, who led and guided the Labor Party institutions' resolutions all along the way until the present crisis.

He never has accepted the fact he is not the prime minister, although I always supported his economic measures in the framework of the state budget and in other frameworks. All along the way, the attitude I received from him was similar, I am sorry to say, to that which he has accorded all the prime ministers under whom he has served—most of them from his own party. All this is history written and recorded in history books and biographies. Mr. Peres spoke of the slander against him, but I am sorry to say Israeli leaders of the past can attest to his character.

From the moment the political initiative was endorsed, we discerned strident voices and divergent interpretations among Labor Party members that were incompatible with the initiative's content and goals. In the face of attempts from the outside to isolate the clause concerning the elections and ignore all other clauses, our partners in the government could have been expected to stress the need to take action on the broadest front possible that would encompass all the components of the initiative.

The leaders and foreign heads of state that I conferred with expressed understanding for our demand that the Arab countries should make some contribution to change the climate of hostility and the state of war with Israel. No one countered our argument that if the Arab countries made some kind of gesture of goodwill—such as terminating the economic boycott, issuing a declaration of intent to recognize Israel's right to exist, or ending the futile attempts to expel Israel's delegation from the United Nations—this would also have a positive effect on the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

If so, why should the chairman of the Labor Party and some of his colleagues speak mockingly and scornfully to our demands on the issue, and signal to our enemies they should not take three of the clauses of our peace initiative seriously? Where is the minimal wisdom of conducting political negotiations? This phenomenon and similar events added to the dangerous deterioration that began during the term of the previous government, which spoke with two voices. We had hardly managed to overcome this disaster, which haunted us for several years, by a joint peace initiative—when the phenomena of speaking with two voices and of undermining the government's policy and performance resumed.

Since when does a Cabinet finance minister conduct his own foreign policy? Why should the government and the country, due to such behavior, thus shame itself in the eyes of the world? In each and every stage of the process, the Israeli Government and Inner Cabinet convened and conducted discussions within a reasonable and relatively short period of time whenever we were required to make a decision, take a position, or respond to the United States, which played a sort of mediating role in the process. In contrast, the Arab side, represented by Egypt, held up its response for weeks and months. The United States and others nevertheless displayed exceptional tolerance toward Egypt and occasionally even deemed fit to praise it. Those who deemed it fit to pass judgment on the Israeli Government, to cast doubts on its intentions, and time and again to accuse it of dragging its feet, were the chairman of the Labor Party and some of his colleagues and aides. [heckling by various Knesset members]

Once again they displayed a bizarre attitude toward the negotiations. They never said no to any proposal coming from the outside. On the contrary, at every opportunity they immediately started to put pressure on us, their

partners in the government, to accept any proposal without any proper recompense. Any improvement in the negotiations, whenever it was achieved, came in the wake of the demands I and my colleagues posed.

When the United States proposed to give us assurances upon our acceptance of Baker's five points and when negotiations began with the United States over these assurances, according to the assumptions made by the Inner Cabinet on 5 December 1989, the Labor Party chairman from the outset said there was no need for all these. This was not kept secret from the Americans and the Arabs; and of course, it had an impact on the results and progress in the negotiations.

On several occasions throughout the process we received proposals, and various initiatives from various quarters were published. First there were four points, later there were the 10 points of Egypt, and then came the five points of the United States. Each time we witnessed the same occurrence, when the Labor Party chairman hastened to respond positively to each of the proposals and the initiatives addressed to us even before they were discussed by any Israeli Government forum. Obviously, these occurrences prevented the government from functioning properly and from coping with the problems that cropped up at every stage of the process. The disruptive conduct of the Labor Party chairman and his colleagues played into the hands of the opposite side and encouraged it to demand a higher price from Israel at every step of the way, although he knew from the start ... [heckling by Shim'on Peres]

I am talking about recent times; the day will come when we settle scores over Jordan and your international conference. Some brilliant invention!

He knew things had gone even further, and had it not been for security restrictions, the public would be apprised of the conduct of some members of the Labor Party on all these issues. I administer these issues more than you do, and when the day comes... [heckling by various Knesset members]

The horrid and shameful spectacle of extending tactical assistance and aid to our staunchest and worst enemies was not limited to this or another minister. This position was also taken by others, and the day of reckoning will yet come! All your screams will not silence the truth, and this is the truth! [heckling by various Knesset members]

Mr. Speaker, in view of this odd and irresponsible conduct by our partners in the government, we became increasingly worried and asked ourselves: How much of this undermining will we be able to put up with? How can we conduct negotiations on such sensitive and critical issues at a time when the actions of our partners in the government weaken the government? This was the background for the last stage in the process, on 23 February 1990, when the U.S. secretary of state presented the Israeli Government with a question and an attendant interpretation. Our response would have enabled a meeting between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States in which the arrangements and regulations would have been agreed on for the beginning of a dialogue between an Israeli delegation and Arab representatives of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The Inner Cabinet convened to discuss the secretary of state's questions on Wednesday, 7 March, and on Sunday, 11 March. Likud ministers who attended the session stressed its decisive importance and its repercussions on the entire peace process. It was clear that our response to the secretary of state's approach pertains to the issues most vital to Israel, which are the status of Jerusalem and the PLO's involvement in the process. We proceeded to hold the debate with a feeling of anxiety and utmost responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, anyone reading the Israeli Government's initiative of 14 May 1989 will notice the words the Palestinian Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District appear no fewer than 10 times in the document. It was not by coincidence we took pains to refer to the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el who would take part in the process in such words. We wanted to prevent any misunderstanding and make it plain to all Israelis and others that Israel strives for an understanding and a solution with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; that Israel believes such a solution may be attained according to the outline of our initiative; and that our proposal can significantly satisfy the desires of that population and, at the same time, be compatible with the interests of the State of Israel. By the same token, this formulation was meant to make clear beyond any shadow of a doubt the initiative is not addressed to Palestinian Arabs who are not inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. In other words, it is not meant for those residing in Tunis, Damascus, and Sidon, and not even for those residing in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.

The PLO is the body representing all those who do not live in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Between us and them is an unbridgeable abyss, because they place at the top of their priorities what they call the right of return and the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as a first stage.

As for the Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem—and as far as we are concerned, there is no East or West Jerusalem; there is only one Jerusalem, the capital of Israel—they cannot be residents of the Israeli capital and at the same time belong to the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in any respect whatsoever. We heard the argument that if the Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem were allowed to vote in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, this would not affect the status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. All these are theoretical formulas that can be used for self-persuasion and to ignore the reality around us.

Have the Labor Party ministers asked themselves: Why have the Arabs insisted from the outset on including deportees and inhabitants of Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation? Why did they rush to accept the Arab

demand even before the Inner Cabinet debated the issue. The Arabs openly and clearly stated why they insist on including these two categories in the delegation. Not only PLO spokesmen, but also Egyptian officials did not conceal the fact including deportees was meant to introduce the PLO into the process, to use them to highlight the right of return, and to make clear the process as they perceive it is meant (?to apply) to the Palestinian Arabs outside Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. As for Jerusalem, I will not go into the spate of declarations and statements from all quarters on the Arab side about Jerusalem being the capital of the Palestinian state, whose establishment they demand.

We were especially worried by declarations emanating from the U.S. capital to the effect that sovereignty over Jerusalem is subject to negotiations, and that the neighborhoods set up in Jerusalem since the six-day war are considered settlements in occupied territory. It therefore turns out that as early as the outset of the talks about the elections scheduled to be held in Cairo, the Israeli delegation would have been faced by various sides which hold a totally opposite position to that of Israel regarding Jerusalem.

Given this state of affairs, would it not have been an illusion and a grave mistake on our part to call into question the status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by agreeing to grant its inhabitants voting rights concerning the autonomy in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza? I had the privilege of attending the debates on this subject during the negotiations on the Camp David accords on the establishment of the autonomy. I had the privilege of hearing the harsh argument between the then-U.S. President and Mr. Menahem Begin, the Israeli prime minister at the time.

I heard Mr. Begin categorically reject Mr. Carter's demand the inhabitants of East Jerusalem take part in those elections. Does anyone conceive of the possibility Israel today should agree to such a move, which would undermine our status in Jerusalem, the same Jerusalem to which everyone sings his praises that it will be the united capital of Israel forever? I am glad for the latter, but is it enough? We cannot declare we will insist the whole of Jerusalem forever will be the capital of Israel and, at the same time, allow the Arab inhabitants of East Jerusalem to take part in elections of the authorities and representatives of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. It then would be clear to all that there is no difference between East Jerusalem and Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. That is why we said a clear and unambiguous position should be adopted, and a decision should be made before going to Cairo, before an Israeli-Palestinian meeting.

On this issue, therefore, we declare once again: Jerusalem's status as the sovereign and united capital of the State of Israel cannot be called into question. The Arabs of East Jerusalem hence will not take part in the process related to the peace initiative, either by electing or by being elected. The inevitable meaning of any such participation is the partitioning of Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, we are grieved and deeply sorry about the developments that led to the disbandment of the national unity government, for whose establishment and existence we worked so hard. All Israelis know I was one of the people who conceived the notion of the national unity government. I fostered this notion and worked hard to maintain this unity. I feel very pained, therefore, that I have to tell the Knesset today why the structure I helped build and maintain through such hard labor now is crumbling down.

Until the very last minute, including this morning, we tried to prevent the disbandment of the government. I welcomed the initiative of Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer and Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz to look for a compromise formula that would enable the survival of the government. They failed in their efforts because the Labor Party rejected all compromise proposals. [heckling by various Knesset members]

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the peace process, whose importance I do not ignore, we have to tackle the vast needs and challenges in the sphere of immigration and its absorption, the economy, and security. Each of these issues would necessitate and justify the establishment of a national unity government on its own merit. The continuous effort to disband the government therefore seriously affects our most vital national interests. History will pass judgment on those who acted and contributed to the disbandment of this government.

I must add some words on the recurring trick of raising the banner of the peace process and using it as a cover, camouflage, and excuse to undermine the government. I am convinced I speak for all Israelis when I say no one, not even the Labor Party chairman, has a monopoly on the desire for peace. Every honest Israeli will firmly reject the innuendos meant to create the impression the Alignment is in favor of peace while the Likud is against it. These are futile suggestions unworthy of those who voiced them, which did nothing to elevate the prestige of the State of Israel and its government. I categorically reject all remarks suggesting that a certain someone, rather than the entire Israeli people and Israeli Army soldiers, holds a monopoly on the battle for Jerusalem. No one holds a monopoly on these subjects. [heckling by various Knesset members]

You claim I voted against the Camp David accords. That is not true, either! But no matter! Why did I abstain in the vote? Because I objected to setting the precedent entailed in the evacuation of Israeli settlements established on areas liberated by the Israeli Army. That was the only reason! But after the Knesset passed its resolutions, I too accepted them, and strove for their implementation in all the positions I have held in the government.

Let us please not forget it was not me, but Mr. Begin—the founder of the Likud, he and no one else—who

signed the first peace treaty with an Arab country. Today you are praising Mr. Begin, but try to recall how you maligned him when he stood at this podium! How you slandered him and gave him hell! What hypocrisy to elevate Begin in order to bring down Shamir! [heckling by various Knesset members]

We are not afraid of peace or the peace process. We are afraid and apprehensive about the run to make concessions in an irresponsible and rash manner. We believe true and stable peace only can be attained when Israel is strong, united, self-confident, and when its government takes responsible action unanimously through mutual consultations.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore am proposing to the Knesset to reject all the no-confidence motions.

Degel Hatora, SHAS Influence

TA1503131490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Degel Hatora has changed its demand of the two large parties and no longer insists on a positive response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker. Degel Hatora calls on both parties to renew their partnership in the national unity government and to pursue the discussion of the political process.

This vague suggestion has met with a more positive response in the Likud than in the Alignment. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that, according to a rumor in the Knesset corridors, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] may bring about the downfall of the government by making sure at least one of its members abstains or is absent from the hall.

New Faction To Support Likud

TA1503131890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The five Knesset members from the Liberal Party have been accorded the status of an independent faction. This makes the Likud the second largest faction in the Knesset. The Knesset House Committee was summoned to an urgent meeting at the instruction of the prime minister to make this decision. At the same time, it should be pointed out the Likud's decline to the status of second largest Knesset bloc is insignificant in practical terms, because the five [Liberals] will vote with the Likud.

4 Likud Ministers for Compromise

TA1503144190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1427 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's Knesset office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] The Likud ministers currently are debating the compromise proposals submitted by Minister Peretz of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Degel Hatora. To the best of my knowledge, four ministers—Olmert, Milo, Meridor, and Pat—have spoken, all of them in favor of the compromise proposal which favors, among other things, giving a positive answer to the U.S. secretary of state.

Ministers Moda'i and David Levi spoke against these proposals.

The Likud, evidently, is tending toward the compromise. This still will take time, as some other ministers must take the floor. But as we said, four ministers spoke in favor of the proposals submitted by Degel Hatora and SHAS, which in general say the Alignment will be returned to the Cabinet, the no-confidence motions will be canceled, and Baker will be given an affirmative answer, along with all sorts of reservations regarding Jerusalem.

SHAS Compromise Detailed

TA1503152390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1445 GMT 15 Mar 90

[By political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] We know now precisely what the Likud ministers are debating. As far as we know, a majority can be seen in support of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] initiative—naturally, in view of the situation and the expected outcome of the vote, which is the prime motive in these difficult times.

The SHAS document submitted to the Likud ministers has three clauses: The first says there will be unity of views in the government as far as the sovereignty of Jerusalem is concerned. That sovereignty is Israeli. There will be no differences of opinion and no dispute about Jerusalem's reunification. In general, this entire issue of Jerusalem will not be negotiable at all. This is the first clause in the SHAS proposal.

The second clause is the tough one, and it includes the suggestion a positive response be given to Secretary of State Baker.

The third clause regards the revocation of the dismissal of former Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and the cancellation of the letters of resignation submitted by the Alignment ministers—in other words, to reverse things.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1451 GMT on 15 March in a report from Shamir's chambers by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel details five clauses in the compromise proposal, adding one that "within a week the Inner Cabinet will convene" and that the "no-confidence motions will be repealed." The fifth clause stipulates "in case of a stalemate, no narrow government will be set up; instead, elections will be conducted." The correspondent adds this last clause came at Prime Minister Shamir's request.]

The debate currently is over these three clauses, and a majority can be seen in support of the SHAS proposal [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1455 GMT on 15 March reports Minister Rabin also supports the compromise]. That is because SHAS' suggestion apparently also includes a statement that if this is not accepted by the Likud ministers, SHAS Knesset members will see themselves free to vote as they see fit during the no-confidence debate.

This highly significant sentence, which easily can be construed as meaning they would not vote with Shamir, as per the earlier SHAS resolution, or shall we say this ultimatum, definitely affects the people ensconced in the prime minister's chambers.

According to the positions as we know of them here, the so-called moderate ministers, or the princes as they have been known to be called—Ministers Olmert and Meridor—and also Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, support this proposal. The constraints ministers, naturally, are against. The prime minister and his fellow ministers and associates know full well that if he was at all capable of ironing out the differences with the constraints camp, the moment he agrees to say yes to the SHAS proposal and give Baker a positive answer, the constraints will come to life again.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service, Tel Aviv IDF Radio, and Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1502 GMT on 15 March carry an interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, after the Likud ministers session, in which he says "the Likud currently is being asked to accept the Alignment's position." He calls SHAS' move "a political trick" to sabotage the 60-60 balance which would have spelled defeat of the no-confidence motions in the Knesset. Levi says this "undoubtedly" also is Shamir's view. He notes another debate will be conducted, but "we will not be able to accept it." He says SHAS spiritual leader Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef apparently will be approached to explain the Likud's position. The correspondents note the Likud rejects the proposal]

Peretz Consults SHAS Leader

TA1503152990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1512 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Minister Rabbi Peretz currently is on the telephone line with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef [SHAS (Torah Observing Sephardim) spiritual leader] to persuade him to change some clauses or proposals. The debate has not really ended. It turns out David Levi left almost halfway through the session. He heard the prime minister repeat several times: The proposal is unacceptable to us, it is unacceptable to us. This led David Levi to conclude the proposal was about to be rejected. He then left the hall and approached the media.

At any rate, right now, at the request of the prime minister, Rabbi Peretz is calling Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, asking him to change a certain clause in the resolution. I presume this has to do with the sentence on a positive response to Baker.

There is another development taking place right now: Constraints Ministers David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i and Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon are sitting here in a room on the first floor of the Knesset, holding talks. This again may signify a problem and dispute among the Likud members, which developed as a result of Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's proposal.

Peres on SHAS Contacts

TA1503174290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1720 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Impromptu news conference with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres after the Likud and Alignment representatives' meeting with SHAS (Torah Observing Sephardim) spiritual leader Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef in his Jerusalem residence—live]

[Text] [Political correspondent Arye Golan] Mr. Peres, what happened at the meeting?
[Peres] He suggested two things: that the ministers all resume their jobs; and that a week-long time-out period be given, after which Baker will be given a positive answer. Mr. Shamir refused to provide a pledge for a positive response. That ended the matter.

[Golan] So you now are proceeding to the no-confidence vote?
[Peres] Yes, sir.

[Golan] What are the chances, sir? What is your estimate?
[Peres] I have no prediction. As you know, I do not deal in such things.

[Golan] We have heard about sharp verbal exchanges in the Labor Party ministerial forum between Yitzhaq Rabin and Hayim Ramon, in which the former charged promises were made to topple the government, but they did not materialize.
[Peres] I do not dabble in gossip.

[Golan] Did Rabin also have you in mind when he voiced this criticism?
[Peres] So now you are looking for some news of this type?

[Golan] God forbid.
[Peres] The situation remains clear. You are creating undue tension. Why shift to marginal issues now? The issue is a grave one. We said only if Baker is given an affirmative response, namely that the peace process continues, will we be able to remain in the government. We are not interested in the seats or in the roles; we are interested in the peace process. Since Mr. Shamir refused this evening again, following my consent, there is no choice but to go to the Knesset and decide there.

[Golan] What will SHAS do in light of Shamir's refusal to accept its proposal?
[Peres] Am I the SHAS faction chairman?

[Golan] No, but you have maintained contacts with him in these difficult days.
[Peres] But I am not authorized to respond on their behalf.

No-Confidence Motion Passes; Government Falls

Speaker Announces Vote Results

TA1503185090 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1844 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Announcement by Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky after the roll call vote on the Alignment's motion of no confidence—live]

[Text] Knesset members, the following are the results: 60 for, 55 against, and I rule the Alignment faction's motion to express no confidence in the government over the damage to national unity and the expression of no confidence in the prime minister is passed.

Shamir Reacts

TA1503185990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1850 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan in the Knesset hall—live]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Shamir, let us have your first reaction, please.
[Shamir] Well, these are the results. They were not surprising. Given the developments in the past few hours, we knew where we were going. We shall pursue our action and our fight.

[Golan] Are there things which you regret, sir?
[Shamir] No.

[Golan] Perhaps a positive response to Baker and keeping Rabin on your side?
[Shamir] I [words indistinct].

[Golan] What is going to happen now, Mr. Shamir?
[Shamir] Well, life goes on even after the no-confidence vote.

[Golan] Are you thinking of going home now and retiring from political life?
[Shamir] No, no.

Peres Comments

TA1503190990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1854 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Impromptu news conference with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Arye Golan after the Knesset vote in the Knesset hall—live]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Peres, a first reaction to the Voice of Israel after the big victory.
[Peres] I always have said, in interviews with your radio as well, that there is a majority in the Knesset for going ahead with the peace process. This evening it was proven such a majority does exist. This was not a marginal subject, but a key issue in the life of our people. I hope all the forces in the parties and people in all walks of Israeli society who want to pursue the peace process are numerous and powerful. I hope we will succeed in maintaining national unity for a purpose. [Word indistinct] national unity, but national unity for a purpose.

[Golan] Without the Likud, of course, although you talk about unity.
[Peres] I did not rule out anyone.

[Golan] Will you invite Shamir to join a government headed by you?
[Peres] I will not answer any such question before the president entrusts me with that mission, if he does.

[IDF Radio's Yaron Deqel] You believe he will entrust you with that mission.
[Peres] I suppose such a possibility exists.

[Golan] You had a majority of 60 Knesset members in the vote of confidence. The question is: Are these the same 60 who will join you in a government?
[Peres] I hope there will be more.

Caretaker Government in Place

TA1503191590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The Knesset voted no confidence in the government under Yitzhaq Shamir. Sixty Knesset members [MK's] voted for the no-confidence motion, and only 55 supported the government. The decision came, in fact, because of the vote of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] members. Five of the six faction members were absent during the vote, and thus decided the vote. Only Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz of SHAS came to the plenary hall and voted confidence in the government.

MK's Gamli'el, Dayan, Ya'ir Levi, 'Azran, and Pinhasi were absent and permitted the Alignment and the bloc that supported it to muster a majority of 60 MK's. Members of Degel Hatora supported the government.

This is the first time in the annals of the Knesset that a government ended its term because of a no-confidence vote. All the previous government crises ended with the prime minister going to the president and submitting his resignation.

Fifteen minutes ago, the Cabinet turned into a caretaker government, and the ministers who were left after the departure of the Alignment ministers cannot leave it, nor can any new member be added to it. From the point of view of its powers, it is a government for all intents and

purposes, except it does not enjoy the Knesset's confidence. It will end its tenure the moment another government is established.

The president is expected to begin consultations with the Knesset factions now over whom to entrust the job of trying to set up a new government.

Rabin Comments

TA1503193090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1855 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Interview with former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Yig'al Goren in the Knesset hall immediately following the no confidence vote on 15 March—live]

[Text] [Rabin] The national unity government could not continue to work together. That was because of the Likud's refusal to pass a critical stage and arrive at the meeting of the two delegations—the Israeli and the Palestinian delegations—in Cairo. The government fell for one reason: Because the Likud was unable to say yes and move forward. Therefore, I, first of all, regret the fact the peace process was stuck. Secondly, I regret that for now there is no national unity government. I hope a government will be set up, although I would not venture to call it more narrow or less narrow, which soon will pursue the peace process.

[Goren] Mr. Rabin, precisely on this matter: What are the chances of a new government picking up where the process left off?
[Rabin] It depends on what kind of government it will be. It is too early to talk about what kind of government will rule. I presume next week the president will begin consultations with the various factions to determine whom to entrust with the job of forming the government. I would not be sorry if another national unity government is set up.

[Goren] Do you still think this is possible?
[Rabin] One can always be optimistic.

[Goren] Are you hinting a national unity government could be set up with the Likud, but without Shamir?
[Rabin] I do not know with whom; I do not deal with names. I hope the person who will be given the job of setting up the government will appeal to the Likud, as well to join the government to set up a national unity government.

[Goren] Mr. Rabin, what role did you play in what happened here in the vote this evening?
[Rabin] I will not go into detail. One thing I will say, though: There were a lot of illusions in the Labor Party and they were dispelled. Even though today's result was positive, it was born almost at the last minute.

[Goren] To sum up, would you repeat your statement that Minister Moshe Nisim is the undertaker who buried the unity government?

[Rabin] I have no doubt the main contribution to the burial of this unity government was undertaker Moshe Nisim. Additionally, he buried the peace process.

[Goren] Thank you very much, sir.

Arens Comments

TA1503193890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1915 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Impromptu news conference with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens after the no confidence vote in the Knesset hall—live]

[Text] [IDF Radio's Yaron Deqel] Minister Arens, first of all, what does the Likud do as of this evening?
[Arens] The Likud will do what all other parties will do. We will begin consultations toward establishing a government.

[Deqel] A narrow-based government led by you?
[Arens] Yes, toward establishing a narrow-based government led by the Likud.

[Israel Television's Yig'al Goren] Minister Arens, we did not quite get what you said in the beginning. What is your reaction to the government's fall?
[Arens] It is a fact. What is there to react to? It is a fact, and we cannot deny it.

[Goren] This happened mainly because the ultraorthodox parties, on which you relied so heavily, actually slapped you in the face.
[Arens] First of all, you should not use the second person in plural. One ultraorthodox party did not give us the support we expected to get from it, that is true.

[Israel Television's Hanan 'Azran] Minister Arens, you actually wanted to go to Cairo. What will happen to the political process now?
[Arens] I have expressed my views on many occasions. I think only a government led by the Likud can advance the peace process.

[Deqel] Do you believe you will be able to set up a government, or is a narrow-based government led by Shim'on Peres inevitable?
[Arens] I do not want to make any predictions. Efforts will be made by one and all. I have no doubt Mr. Peres will try to set up a government led by him.

['Azran] Minister Arens, you have a problem in that an accusing finger was pointed at Mr. Shamir as the man who managed to create a short-circuit in relations with the ultraorthodox parties. Is the answer now a Likud under the leadership of another man?
[Arens] I do not think this is the time to make that sort of calculation. True, we were disappointed not to get the support of one party. I hope we will manage to amend that.

['Azran] Still, when it comes to political calculations, everything must be taken into account.
[Arens] Indeed, but not tonight.

Peres Thanks SHAS Rabbi

TA1503194390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1915 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Statement by Labor Party chairman Shim'on Peres in the Knesset building in a "celebration" of victory after the Knesset no-confidence vote—live]

[Text] I would like to say we held contacts with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. They were respectable and to the point. I know Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef made tremendous efforts to preserve national unity, an issue which is dear to him and to us, but he did not express neutrality regarding the peace process. We enjoyed this cooperation, which I hope will continue in the future as well. I would not like to mention other names at this moment, because I do not know if this would be good or bad. But there is a list. I will, therefore, make do with expressing my gratitude to the chairman of the movement, former Chief Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, who this evening again made great efforts to salvage the unity government and the unity of the nation.

Herzog Begins Decisions

TA1503194690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1925 GMT 15 Mar 90

[By Nava Kohen from the studio in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky this evening phoned Israel's President Hayim Herzog to inform him the House had voiced its lack of confidence in the government.

According to law, the president will begin summoning the representatives of the Knesset factions before he decides on which Knesset member to entrust with the task of forming the new government. The president said he intends to take all the necessary action without any delay. Nevertheless, it seems he will launch the contacts to form the new government only at the beginning of next week or, in other words, on Sunday. Supposedly, the leader of the largest Knesset faction, Shim'on Peres from the Alignment, will be the first to be summoned.

Rabin Comments Further

TA1503195190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1917 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Statement by Yitzhaq Rabin at the Labor Party head quarters in the Knesset in a "victory celebration" after the Knesset no-confidence vote—live]

[Text] First of all, in my eyes, this is a sad day. It is a sad day because we have reached this point—our decision to vote no confidence, the dismissal and the resignations—because we saw that in effect there was an attempt to nip in the bud the peace move we launched.

There was an attempt to nip it in the bud at a stage when we expected a substantial upgrade. In fact, what was missing was just one positive answer, a yes to Baker, for us to reach the meeting between the two delegations—one Israeli and the other Palestinian—in Cairo. This, in my mind, would have created the historic precedent of Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. It was not mere coincidence that in this phase the Likud reached a point where it was incapable of pursuing the peace process. At the moment, therefore, the peace process is frozen. I do not know what will develop until a new government is established, or what government it will be. I believe and hope that we will be able to form a government that will continue the peace process, because this was the objective, this was the reason—though not because of us—that we reached this day. I repeat emphatically: I see this as a sad day.

There was no other alternative, but at least this is how I feel. These are my sentiments. I hope it will not take long before a new government is established and that these rumors will not help create a situation in which whatever has been achieved will be harmed. After all, with the exception of peace with Egypt, I am not aware of any peace process that attained whatever achievements were scored based on the government's May 1989 peace initiative. As for me personally, I find it difficult, after five and a half years, to take my leave of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and to give up dealing with security matters. I already have experienced this once before, however, when I left the military. Tomorrow, no doubt, I will find a way to express this both in the Defense Ministry and in the General Staff Command.

I wish to thank all my colleagues very much. It is necessary to learn from the positive things, as well as from mistakes we have made in order not to repeat them in the future. Thank you very much. [applause]

Levi May Vie for Leadership

TA1503201690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] In the Likud, Knesset Member Beni Begin says he and his colleagues will make efforts to ensure Shim'on Peres will not obtain his goal of forming a government. Begin said nothing good will come to the people of Israel from a government which incorporates the anti-Zionist left and the ultraorthodox parties.

Meanwhile, our correspondent reports Minister David Levi has summoned his associates to his office, and that he may launch a battle for Likud leader.

Der'i Sees Broad Government

TA1503202490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Interior Minister Arye Der'i, who was at the center of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] efforts to mediate between the Likud and the Alignment, says he is convinced a new government, as broad as possible, will be established within a few days. He commended Alignment leaders Peres and Rabin for showing willingness to sign a document unconditionally specifying

Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's compromise terms. He claimed most of the Likud ministers would also have liked to sign the document, but did not because of inhibitions. Minister Der'i and Minister Yitzhaq Peretz reported Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef instructed the SHAS members not to vote for the government, but allowed Minister Peretz to support it only because he is a member of it.

Egypt's Ghali Interviewed

TA1603060690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Telephone interview with Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, in Cairo, by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a in the Tel Aviv studio; in English—live]

[Text] [Barne'a] Good morning, Dr. Butrus Ghali in Cairo. Can we hear your first response to the fall of the Israeli Government in the no-confidence vote yesterday in the Knesset?

[Ghali] You know, our first response is related to the peace process. We will be ready to negotiate with whatever new government will be in power, so that we can continue the peace process, begin direct talks between the Palestinians and the Israeli Government. So for us what is important is to have a government in power and a government ready to negotiate. We will negotiate with whoever is in power.

[Barne'a] Dr. Ghali, would you rather prefer now, after Shamir has lost [the Knesset's] confidence, to deal with someone like Shim'on Peres or with somebody else from the Likud?

[Ghali] For us what is important is to deal with the government in power. We do not want to interfere in the internal politics of Israel. What is important for us is to have a government with whom we can negotiate and with whom we can continue to talk.

[Barne'a] How do you foresee the chances of enhancing the peace process now, after the fall of the Shamir government?

[Ghali] The problem is that as long as the crisis continues, the peace process is the [word indistinct]. For us what is important is to begin as soon as possible the new peace process.

[Barne'a] Thank you very much, Dr. Ghali.

Al-Husayni, Others Comment

TA1603081090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Mar 90

[By correspondent in the territories 'Ido Shargil]

[Text] The political crisis in Israel was closely monitored in the territories. Of the figures we spoke to, however, only one openly welcomed the government fall. Faysal al-Husayni told us: The unity government has come to an end, and we hope an Alignment government that will be able to make decisions will be set up.

A similar, though more cautious, opinion was expressed by Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus. I did not foresee the government fall, he admitted. Today my main concern is the amount of time the peace process will take. According to Kan'an, an Alignment government is preferable, but the small majority it will have will tie it hands. His main fear is the passage of time only will help strengthen the extremists.

Two other figures, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad and Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, preferred not to mention names. The important thing, said Abu-Zayyad, is for there to be a government that will take the peace process seriously. Frayj said: I hope the Alignment will accept Baker's points. I prefer to see a government that is for peace. Analyzing the Likud statements, I only can reach one conclusion: The Alignment will be more flexible.

Another opinion comes from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Zuhayra Kamal, chairman of the women's organizations in the territories, who is identified with this organization, said: The government's fall is a result of the pressure of the intifadah. According to Kamal, the Alignment will not be able to provide an answer to the peace process, though it is hard to pass judgment at the moment. Concluding she said: We must wait and see how the new government treats our demands.

Alignment May Stay

TA1603114890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] It is possible that despite the vote of no confidence, the Alignment ministers will remain in the caretaker government. The attorney general was asked to examine this legal issue.

Our correspondent in the Knesset, Yo'el Nir, reports Hayim Ramon, chairman of the Labor Knesset faction, and Knesset Member Shim'on Shitrit asked Mr. Harish to examine whether the Knesset's no-confidence vote came before the Alignment ministers' resignation.

According to the Basic Law: The government, the outcome of the no-confidence vote takes effect on the day the vote was taken, and some interpret this to mean the beginning of that day. This would mean the no-confidence vote took effect before the Alignment ministers' resignation went into effect just before noon. This slight difference of a few hours might be decisive in determining whether the Alignment ministers remain in the caretaker government against Prime Minister Shamir's will.

The issue already was raised last night, after the vote was conducted, and was brought to the attention of Mr. Peres, who asked his men, Liba'i and Ramon, to look into it.

King Husayn Views Impact of Israeli 'Crisis'

JN1603090390 Amman Domestic Service in English 0530 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] His majesty the king said the United States must take much greater responsibility for Middle East peace because of the political crisis in Israel, and he warned that extremists on both sides could endanger world peace. He told a luncheon of the Association of American Correspondents in London that something needs to be done, and fast. His majesty added it was not his place to suggest what the United States should do next, but reiterated that he still believed U.S. President George Bush offered great hope for peace in the region, and he should now give the Mideast the attention that it merits. The king said: I believe that the United States, with the realities of today, must realize that it has greater responsibilities for the future of all concerned in that area on either side to the conflict than ever before. He added: Without a solution to the problem, I fear it is possible that those who have given too much and who have also their position the interest of peace [as heard] may lose, and more extreme elements may emerge on either side to the conflict.

The king went on to say the future would look bleak and the area would be a danger to the world, on top of being a danger to itself. His majesty said it was inevitable that Israel's coalition government collapsed over the pressures and tensions over the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks, seen as the first step toward a comprehensive Middle East settlement. He said: Let us hope that it may be a turning point for the better, and that the result will be that the voice of those who can see beyond today and the realities of today can be heard in the interest of peace and justice. The king stressed that the Palestine Liberation Organization has met every international demand—denouncing violence and recognizing Israel's right to live in peace within secure borders. He said the need now is for the Israeli side to do the same.

Brotherhood Urges Moves Against U.S. Interests

JN1603092390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has issued a statement on the Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine, in which it said: The dangers that the Jewish emigration poses to the Arab and Islamic nation are numerous. Some of these dangers are as follows:

—Those Jewish immigrants live in the occupied territories in settlements similar to military fortresses.

—The presence of these immigrants and the construction of these settlements mean that the territories will become too small for their Palestinian owners, who will be replaced by new settlers. The Jews will then expel the Palestinians outside Palestine.

—Increasing the number of Jews in Palestine in such a huge manner means expansion at the expense of the neighboring Arab countries, particularly Jordan and Syria.

In view of these dangers, we deem it necessary to adopt the following measures:

—Block the Soviet Union's interests in the region until it responds to the wishes of the region's nation by halting the Jewish emigration. We will not forget that the Soviet Union was the first to recognize the Jewish state.

—Strike at U.S. interests in the region as well as the interests of all other countries that extend any kind of military or economic aid to the Jewish state in Palestine, especially since the United States is the military ally of the Jewish state in Palestine and the primary financier of Jewish settlements in Palestine.

—Draw up a firm plan to encounter and prevent Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and East Europe.

—Extend financial, informational, cultural, and material suport to the intifadah in order to block Jewish emigration.

—Abandon the option of peaceful solution which has been adopted by the region's states since 1974.

—Seriously return to the military solution option which was abandoned in 1974.

—Mobilize all the nation, men and women, and turn them into an armed popular army that can turn every inch desecrated by the invaders into an inferno, so that this land will be a graveyard for the invaders and a springboard for the liberation of the entire Palestinian soil.

—Spread the spirit of jihad and martyrdom among the people of this nation and raise the slogan of al-Azhar Muslim scholar Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam: Jihad for the sake of victory or martyrdom.

King Husayn on Journalist's Execution, Arab Topics

JN1603082590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met in London yesterday with members of the Association of American Correspondents in Britain, who hosted a luncheon in honor of his majesty and held with his majesty a lengthy discussion of Arab and world issues. During the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn said the Arab nation aspires to live in its homeland in peace and security and to be given the opportunity under this security to contribute to mankind's progress in a secure, fair, and stable world. His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that Jordan stands on the longest line of confrontation [with Israel] and that proceeding from its frontline position, Jordan will continue to fully shoulder its responsibilities to defend the Arab rights and the Arab nation's right to peace, security, and stability.

On the sidelines of this meeting, the Voice of America correspondent in Amman, who is currently in the British

capital, conducted an interview with his majesty. Responding to a question on the recent developments in Israel after the fall of the Israeli Government under Yitzhaq Shamir, His Majesty King Husayn said: "Undoubtedly, the situation is delicate, and we must give it the attention it deserves so as to see what options there are and what the changes in Israel—which have not developed fully—will lead to. Naturally, we hope that the world at large will give greater attention to the Middle East and its burning issues, which proceed in a direction that is contrary to the world's march toward the achievement of just peace everywhere."

Regarding the awaited Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and the steps that can be taken to activate the peace process in the Middle East, his majesty said: "I believe that the United States should study the situation and take the necessary measures to salvage the situation before it is too late. To answer this question, we support the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. We believe the PLO has met all international requirements. It is now in complete charge, and it is the representative of the Palestinian Arab people. This is an addition to its credit. The question, therefore, should not be posed to it or to the Arab side, but should be posed to the other party."

Responding to a question on the position of Jordan, which stands on the longest line of confrontation with Israel, on efforts to establish peace, his majesty said: "Jordan is in the heart of the turmoil. This is its fate. It is Jordan's honor to stand alongside the Palestinian Arab right to their national Palestinian soil. It is also Jordan's honor to work to establish a just and durable peace in the service of coming generations in the region. Within this context, Jordan is in line with the world's orientation."

On the real danger inherent in the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern to Israel and this emigration's relationship with human rights, King Husayn said: "We defend human rights. There is no disagreement over this issue between us and those who claim to be defending human rights anywhere in the world. We also defend the human rights of the Palestinian Arabs on their national soil. Our anxiety arises from the possibility that others may be enjoying their rights at the expense of the Arabs and Palestinians over their national soil."

Responding to a question on the issue of the British journalist who was executed in Iraq yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn replied: "This is a matter that concerns Iraq and the leadership in fraternal Iraq. I received an appeal on the issue of this person. I am not acquainted with all the details of this issue. However, I have nothing that makes me question this issue in terms of the Iraqi justice, the investigation into the case, and the results reached by the relevant authorities in Iraq on this issue. The appeal was on the humanitarian level only. It was addressed to me. I, in turn, asked the Jordanian foreign minister to convey it to his brother the foreign minister of Iraq in order to communicate it to the Iraqi higher authorities and leadership. At any rate, we can say that it is regrettable that there was a cause in the first place that led to this series of events and this result. I hope the numerous noticeable attempts—which I deem improper—to harm Iraq in particular will ease. This is not the only case. In fact, there has been a focus on and attacks on Iraq for a long period of time. I do not believe that this is justifiable. It is not ruled out that the reason is because Iraq defended the eastern flank of the Arab homeland and defended the Arab order. Consequently, some believe that Iraq poses a threat. I believe Iraq is part of and is devoted to the Arab nation. With the passage of time, we hope, the way Iraq is viewed will change. We want the world to know the real Iraq."

European 'Campaign' Against Iraq Alleged

JN1603091590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Mar 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "An Unjust European Campaign and a Poisoned Political Climate"]

[Text] In a coordinated and calculated manner, a major political and media campaign has begun in all European countries denouncing fraternal Iraq and calling for economic sanctions after the Iraqi Government applied its valid laws against a spy of a British nationality, who violated the ethics of his profession by agreeing to become an agent for Israel.

We are astonished by the ongoing bullying against fraternal Iraq, and denounce this concentrated campaign and diplomatic escalation by European government and parliamentary circles. At the same time, we are surprised by the complete silence of all those protesters in the European capitals over the series of daily executions committed in cold blood by Israel against unarmed children and women.

If the Europeans are that conscientious and sensitive, we cannot help but wonder with great pain and grief: How can those who are bereaved by the execution of a spy, who confessed to his crime in the presence of the British consul in Baghdad, assume the role of judge and jury and appoint themselves guardians of the values of justice while they continue to turn a blind eye to the massacre that is carried out systematically against an entire people, whose lands are occupied, rights are confiscated, and sons are murdered by Israel.

While we see this unusual European anger and follow its first signs with great astonishment, we recall those shy European protests, made in low voices, against the oppressive Israeli measures, and try to draw a comparison between the two. We also wonder if the standards of justice have any connection with the kind of passport, the color of skin, or other factors that require one to lower his voice here and raise it there.

While hoping this unjust campaign against fraternal Iraq will halt and its unholy fire die down, we declare our pride in the lofty Iraqi stance and respect for the courage

of the Iraqis who reject bullying, threats, and extortion and reject all forms of bargaining when the matter concerns Iraq's dignity, sovereignty, and legitimate right to implement the valid laws in inviolable Iraq.

Soviet Role in Middle East Peace Efforts Viewed

JN1603102890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
16 Mar 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Soviet Promise"]

[Text] Yesterday, Gorbachev announced before the Congress of the People's Deputies his intention to reactivate the Soviet role vis-a-vis the situation in the Middle East. Earlier, a senior Soviet Foreign Ministry official said his country will adopt certain measures if Israel refuses to yield to the international will that Jews emigrating from East Europe and the Soviet Union not be settled in occupied Palestinian territory. However, he did not elaborate on the nature of these measures.

The Soviet commentators themselves saw extremely important signs in President Gorbachev's statement. Foremost among these signs is that he incorporated the Middle East question into his country's foreign policy, upgraded it to the level of priority in Soviet diplomacy, and placed it under his personal supervision. He did so out of his realization that less Soviet attention had been given the region's affairs during the past few years, and as an expression of his determination to play an active role toward solving the issue and averting the well-known gaps in Soviet-Arab relations which please neither of the two sides.

What commands attention is that the official Soviet commentators reacted by saying that Gorbachev's statement should be applied by Soviet foreign policy into practical steps and practices aimed at accelerating a Middle East settlement.

All this represents a public and strong pledge to play a serious and active Soviet role toward the attainment of a settlement. Although no one wants to undermine the importance of this promise, we should frankly say that the Soviet Union's adoption of a practical measure preventing settlement of the Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territory will be the initial proof of the credibility of the Soviet promise as declared by Gorbachev. It is insufficient for Moscow to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council or to declare its denunciation and condemnation of the Israeli intransigence. It can consider settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories a political action conflicting with the Soviet Union's policy in the region. Subsequently, Moscow can take a brave decision stopping this emigration until a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestine question is reached.

It is high time for the Soviet Union to deal with Jewish emigration from its political perspective, which is a real perspective that cannot be undermined. In light of this perspective, the Israeli scheme to employ this emigration to back the Israeli settlement policy and the policy of force in clinging to the occupied territory and scrapping peace opportunities in the region can be clearly seen.

While welcoming the Soviet pledge and the Soviet commentators' reaction to it, we await proof of its credibility and say frankly that a Soviet measure stopping the Jewish emigration will be the real proof, which will restore vitality to Arab-Soviet relations. Such a measure will express the Soviet Union's serious intentions to advance the peace process in the region.

Islamic Jihad Threatens Retaliation for Emigration

NC1503223790 Paris AFP in English 2221 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Beirut, March 15 (AFP)—A shadowy group holding three U.S hostages in Lebanon threatened here Thursday to attack airports and airline companies used to transport Soviet Jews to Israel. "We shall take adequate measures to prevent the arrival of the Soviets. All the airports, all the airline companies which help with their transportation, as well as their planes and their offices will be our direct targets," it said.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP), in a statement delivered to a Western news agency in mainly Muslim West Beirut, also warned that it could execute its hostages. "We have not yet carried out the death sentences against them because we are waiting for the right moment," it said. "We have set a trap and we are waiting impatiently for the moment when the Americans will commit the rash act of trying to free them by force," the IJLP said in its statement, accompanied by a photograph of hostage Robert Polhill. "There is no other solution to this affair than within the framework of an exchange," it said.

The IJLP, which holds two other U.S. hostages, Jesse Turner and Alann Steen, has repeatedly called for an exchange involving the release of 400 Palestinian prisoners held in Israel.

The death threats would be carried out "if the U.S. Administration does not respond to our demands," the group said, without giving an ultimatum.

Seventeen Westerners are held hostage in Lebanon, many of whom are believed to be in the hands of pro-Iranian Islamic militants.

Further on Threat

NC1503225390 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 2245 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine organization has stressed it refuses to release any of the hostages before its demands are met. In a statement issued along with a photograph of one of the hostages, the organization threatened to attack all airports, airline companies, and airplanes that help transport Soviet Jews to Israel. It said the people will not remain silent about this plot, and that it will start taking the appropriate measures to prevent the arrival of Soviet Jews.

The organization condemned media reports about moves to release some of the hostages. It threatened to execute them if the U.S. Administration does not meet its demands.

Bank of Lebanon Director Reportedly Attacked

NC1503142090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The clashes in the eastern area abated today, and the tension between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the southern suburb eased. In the meantime, 'Ali al-Shurayf, the administrative director of the Bank of Lebanon, was attacked. There have been successive reports about Al-Shurayf's fate immediately following the incident. It was first said he was hit by gunmen who fired at him, and then that he was taken to the American University Hospital in serious condition.

Later reports said Al-Shurayf was not the target, but was fired at by mistake. Al-Shurayf said, however, that members of the Internal Security Forces and an officer tried to arrest Dr. Edmund Na'im, the Bank of Lebanon governor. An argument and clash then ensued with these people, one of whom hit him on the head with the butt of a pistol. Some bullets were fired, he added, and then these people left the bank. Al-Shurayf assured everyone his health is good and the issue is over.

Immediately upon being told about this incident, President Ilyas al-Hirawi sent his advisor 'Umar Musayki to the Bank of Lebanon to find out what really happened. Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri visited the Bank of Lebanon at noon, and Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin followed him. Upon leaving the bank, Minister Birri made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Birri] The incident involved members of the internal security forces, and the perpetrators will be held accountable. A special cabinet meeting will be conducted immediately after Dr. Salim al-Huss is discharged from the hospital, so the penalties may be meted. Attacks against the Central Bank and against Dr. Edmund Na'im, who is an example of Lebanon's steadfastness, are forbidden. I declare that if it were not for God and the great efforts which Dr. Na'im exerted, the Lebanese pound, the only thing which holds the Lebanese together, would not have existed. Edmund Na'im's survival means the survival of the Central Bank, and consequently, Lebanon's survival.

[Unidentified correspondent] One word only. Was the incident just a local incident?

[Birri] It took place among the internal security forces. It was a local incident, and it was spontaneous. [end recording]

Immediately upon being informed about the attempt to attack the Bank of Lebanon governor, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss telephoned Dr. Edmund Na'im from the American University Hospital, where he is being treated. Al-Huss expressed his strong condemnation and denunciation of the attack. Dr. al-Huss expressed to Dr. Na'im that he strongly resented this attempt. He emphasized that all measures will be taken to prevent the recurrence of such an attack.

Dr. Na'im assured Prime Minister al-Huss he will continue his activities and will adhere to the course he has followed as Bank of Lebanon governor. Prime Minister al-Huss immediately sent Hisham al-Sha'ar, secretary general of the premier's office, to visit Dr. Na'im and convey his greetings, condemnation, and denunciation. Prime Minister al-Huss also sent some Army and internal security officers for the same purpose.

We have just been informed President Ilyas al-Hirawi telephoned Dr. Edmund Na'im, the governor of the Bank of Lebanon, a short while ago. The president also sent Deputy Harb and some of the president's security officers to express to Dr. Na'im the president's denunciaion and to tell him that an investigation has been started and that appropirate measures have been adopted. First Lieutenant Husayn Salih of the Internal Security Forces and those who caused the security problem have been detained.

Kidnap Attempt Reported

NC1503154090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Central Bank of Lebanon was stormed today in an attempt to kidnap Bank Governor Dr. Edmund Na'im. The bank personnel manager 'Ali al-Shurayf, a sergeant in the internal security forces, and a number of bank employees were injured. The details are as follows:

Approximately 12 internal security forces members broke into the bank building and attempted to kidnap Dr. Na'im. A clash ensued with the Army personnel assigned to guard the building. The attackers were forced to release Na'im in the bank courtyard. Members of the internal security forces were deployed in and around the bank during the incident. It was later reported that First Lieutenant Husayn Salih of the internal security forces and a number of internal security forces members involved in the incident were apprehended and an immediate investigation into the matter began. [passage omitted]

The Bank of Lebanon Employees' Association issued a statement at noon today condemning the attack against the bank, its governor, his deputies, and some of the bank employees. The statement called on the bank employees to go on strike tomorrow, Friday, until the instigators and culprits, regardless of how high they may be, are brought to trial. The association also called on the bank employees to stage a sit-in at their offices during the strike.

'Awn Gives Officers Option To Join Lahhud, LF

NC1503132890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] AL-NAHAR quotes sources close to the government as saying that a state of unrest prevails among the military personnel in the eastern area. This follows meetings with General 'Awn. The sources report that Gen. 'Awn recently met with military officers to assess the military situation in the eastern area. He told them that those who wish to join General Emile Lahhud's command or the Lebanese Forces [LF] could do so. He informed them, however, that those who want to stay with him must fight without asking why the battle began or why it is continuing.

AL-NAHAR cites the sources as saying that the results of the Adma battle were discussed. The paper said that Gen. 'Awn said he considers withdrawing commando forces from that area a tactical move, while some of the officers, however, said they regard it as a defeat.

According to the AL-NAHAR report, the sources added that some officers asked Gen. 'Awn to give his position on the al-Ta'if agreement. According to the officers, they cannot wait for the results of negotiations on this matter because that would take a long time, and it would compel the military to remain in battle positions.

'Awn Sees Possible Accord With Lebanese Forces

NC1603092290 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] In an interview with AL-ANWAR, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said there is a good chance for an early agreement with the Lebanese Forces to unify the position of East Beirut and to turn that area into a model for the country's unity.

Gen. 'Awn added: Our political vision includes the whole country. Our vision is one of understanding among all Lebanese, of a round table dialogue, and a unified country through such dialogue. I have no desire to impose a personal vision on all the Lebanese. Just as in the past, I refuse a vision be imposed on them that contradicts their aspirations, their nature, and their national objectives.

Gen. 'Awn said: The Middle East is living through a critical and perilous phase, and I can see signs of a tremor that could shake the region. I hope Lebanon will have the sense and ability to use such a tremor to create objective political conditions to serve its cause. The country should regain its ability, which it had until recently, to stand against any solution that compromises its sovereignty or precludes its revival as a democratic and free state.

Gen. 'Awn added: Had it not been for the attempts to strike us from within our ranks, we would have been able to handle the changes in the region more easily and effectively. [Words indistinct] the Middle East turbulances and how they reflect on the Lebanese and the Middle East crisis. Gen. 'Awn (?commented on) basic changes in the international scene, particularly regarding U.S. policy. He said the political changes in Israel have proven the failure of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's policies. This failure will force U.S. President Bush's administration to replace the secretary of state or to change his policies.

The prime minister described the current phase as one in which the cards are being reshuffled, saying this may reflect either positively or negatively on us. Judging from experience, he said, we are sure the failure of the scheme to topple the legitimate government, which we represent, will undermine that very scheme so we emerge stronger than before.

The future is for the true legitimacy. Yesterday, the false legitimacy showed its true face in the attempt to kidnap the Central Bank's governor from his office. The cost of not having legitimate power was clear during the raid on the Central Bank branch in Juniyah and the subsequent robbery of millions from that branch.

Ja'ja' Calls For Comprehensive National Solution

NC1503191790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has stated we are halfway toward a solution and its outline should become clearer within one week.

This statement was made during an interview with AL-DIYAR paper to be published tomorrow. The Lebanese Forces commander added: The recent problem began as an internal one inside the eastern area, but the solution must be a comprehensive national one, and hence these events will end when the solution starts. In our view, the serious solution lies in the search for the comprehensive national one. I believe the current situation in the eastern area is ready for the comprehensive solution more than at any other time.

Regarding the main principles for the comprehensive solution constituting the basis for an understanding with General 'Awn, Ja'ja' named four points:
1. The basis for Lebanon's unity.
2. There can be no continuity without Arab and international legitimacy.
3. Our society cannot stand fast if we do not provide it with the minimum level of economic stability, and our principles cannot be achieved if we do not ensure the requisites for steadfastness for those who believe in them.
4. There is a need to find the appropriate framework for dialogue with all the Lebanese groups, because no group can do anything alone.

As to possilbly excluding Gen. 'Awn from the current solution, Ja'ja' said: We are against excluding any party from the solution. We persistently call for the inclusion of all parties in the existing framework for the solution.

Asked if the al-Ta'if accord possibly could be a solution, Ja'ja' replied: Al-Ta'if is not a magical solution, nor is it a threatening evil. Like all agreements, it consists of general principles that are discussed within the constitutional framework.

Regarding his stand on handing greater Beirut over to the state, the Lebanese Forces commander said: We are not here to prevent the state from existing. The opposite is true. We came into existence because the 1943 state collapsed. Our aim today is to work for the establishment of the just and capable state, because no society can exist without the establishment of the state. When the solution is reached and the state is established, then we will voluntarily give everything to it.

Ja'ja' Reportedly Buys Two Shiploads of Arms

NC1503142190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Security sources have reported Samir Ja'ja', commander of the al-Karantinah gangs, has purchased two shiploads of weapons on the arms black market. The sources said the weapons soon will be delivered to the areas under Lebanese Forces control.

Resistance Group Attacks Israeli-Lahd Patrol

NC1603085290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The National Resistance yesterday detonated an explosive device when a joint Israeli-Lahd patrol passed by on the Dayr Siryan-'Alman road in the central sector in the south. A personnel carrier was damaged, and its crew was injured. The occupation forces consequently raked the al-Litani river basin and the area surrounding Frun and al-Ghanduriyah townships with heavy machinegun fire. The enemy and his agents raked the dirt road, which their forces use, extending from Dayr Siryan to their positions in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah.

Hizballah Shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah Reported

NC1503184590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Regarding the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, an Amal Movement security source has reported that Sarba, Kafr Hatta, Kafr Bayt, Jarju', and Humin al-Fawqa this afternoon came under 120-mm artillery fire from Hizballah positions in al-Luwayzah and Jba'. The shelling left a woman dead and a child wounded in Sarba and caused heavy property damage.

Tension Follows Overnight Clashes in East Area

NC1603095490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Tension reigns in the eastern area after a night of violent clashes with machineguns and rockets that reached Biskinta, Bakish, Darayya, 'Ajlun, al-Qulay'at, and 'Atrun in Kasrawan. Similiar clashes took place along the lines of Sinn al-fil, al-Nab'ah, al-'Adliyah, and al-Ashrafiyah in Beirut. Intermittent artillery rounds and flares, which illuminated the skies above these lines, were fired.

The media campaigns between the two warring parties have escalated. 'Awn's media resumed their campaign

against the gunmen and their practices. The Lebanese Forces media resumed transmitting pictorial passages of contradictory stands by General 'Awn and scenes of the attack on Patriarch Sfayr.

The mediation committee has been confined to conveying both sides' views amid talk about another outbreak of violent war in the eastern areas after the new and final grace period. Gen. 'Awn has given the mediation committee this grace period so it can proclaim its political authority. It otherwise will be seen as having failed, thus requiring other methods for a solution. The Lebanese Forces considered 'Awn's position tantamount to a threat and an attempt to obstruct the mediation committee. They added the patient people in the eastern area only ask 'Awn to spare them his evil, destruction, and ruin, end the war against them, and remove their anxiety about the future.

Israel's Political Crisis Termed 'Gimmick'

JN1303181490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen; the collapse of the Israeli coalition government and the dismissal of Shim'on Peres, minister of finance and leader of the Labor Party, from the government of terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir—which came after a long drawn-out controversy, a series of meetings, and the postponement of allegedly vital decisions—make it absolutely clear that what is taking place in the Zionist entity is an attempt to stall for time and evade the requirements of the genuine, just, and comprehensive peace that the world community has called for. This peace requires, among other things, the restoration of the usurped rights of the Palestinian Arab people, the return of all occupied Arab territories within the framework of an international peace conference, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil.

The leaders of the Zionist entity are resorting to the same old-new gimmick. The aim is the same: Play for time and escape from the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. Such peace, established as it should be on the bases of rights and justice and on the firm foundations of international law and human rights, would put an end to the Torah illusions harbored by the leaders of the racist Zionist movement as they endeavor to establish Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

The history of the Arab-Zionist conflict shows that there are no differences among the Tel Aviv rulers, whether Labor or Likud leaders, as far as the basic goals of the racist Zionist entity are concerned. Both parties seek to achieve the same goals through further expansion and aggression against Arab lands and existence. They are partners in oppressing the heroic intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people, deporting this people, and Judaizing the Arab land. They differ, perhaps, in the method to achieve these aggressive goals of swallowing up the occupied Arab land and tearing apart Arab existence inside and outside occupied Palestine.

The real aim of the opposition between the two wings of the enemy government is to divert attention away from basic issues to secondary and marginal ones, and to show that there exists in the Zionist entity a party that seeks a peaceful settlement, and, therefore, that deserves to be given time, the opportunity, and, if necessary, support, to fulfill its objectives. However, the facts of the conflict make it clear that nobody in the Zionist entity is seeking genuine peace based on justice. Indeed, every enemy leader has no objective but to abort any efforts leading to such a just and comprehensive peace. Hence, they rejected the international conference, which has been accepted throughout the world. If one looks carefully at the Labor Party proposals, one sees that, in the final analysis, the proposals are in parallel with terrorist Shamir's no's, and support further settlements in the occupied Arab territories. One would also see that the Labor Party is no less enthusiastic about establishing Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates than Shamir or Sharon.

From this premise, no Arab must be tempted by the new deceptive Zionist development or expect a solution from the leaders of the racist Zionist movement—whether the coalition government returns to power or if a new government under Shamir and the extremist right-wing religious parties is formed after a long struggle that might go on for many months. At this stage, all enemy leaders, no matter what label they carry, want only to abort the Palestinian intifadah, deport Arab citizens from their lands and houses, and buy time pending new world developments that pave the way for undermining all peace efforts, keeping the occupied Arab teritories, and occupying more Arab land.

Syria, under al-Asad, which has sounded the alarm, is not frightened; it realizes that the danger threatens all Arabs without exception. All Arabs should mobilize their immense resources and strength and build effective Arab solidarity that provides the greatest support for the valiant intifadah and the Lebanese national resistance. They should not be distracted by the Zionist game of playing for time pending new concessions from this party or that. Realism and attempts to win over world opinion never mean capitulation to the enemy or the abandonment of rights. Realism, on the other hand, means unity of ranks and policy to counter the surrounding threats; it means mobilization of capabilities to seize usurped rights and land.

Commentary Discusses Israel's 'Public Image'

JN1503161490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The intifadah has uncovered to the world the true racist, aggressive face of Zionism; exposed the crimes of Israel against the Palestinian people and humanity at large; and left the West in general, and the United States in particular, in the lurch. The reason is that the United States extends all kinds of assistance to Israel and provides it with the most modern weapons. The least than can be said regarding this assistance is that it enables the Zionist state to continue its brutal actions, which clash with human rights and the principles of the United Nations.

Because the U.S. Administration is no longer capable of covering up the crimes perpetrated by Israel, it hastened to accept Shamir's proposal to hold local elections in the occupied Arab territories. By doing so, the United States wanted to give public opinion the impression that it seeks to achieve something for the Palestinians, especially once American citizens followed on their television screens the violent, atrocious, and barbarous practices of the Israeli soldiers, finding it hard to believe that

their funds were being used to support policies against the most basic of human rights.

Subsequently there was the Baker plan, which was amended many times and was the center of discussion for many months because the Israeli prime minister proposed elections at the time not to poll the opinion of Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, but to besiege the intifadah and isolate it from its natural surroundings.

When Shamir found himself backed into a corner, however, he had to reveal his true colors. He rejects peace altogether; he refuses to grant the Palestinians any right, even if it is the right to self-rule. He rejects withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and considers them part of Greater Israel. He is working, moreover, to settle the Soviet Jews there, and does not conceal his intentions to alter the demographical face of the West Bank.

Thus, the crisis between the two implacable political adversaries, Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres—which was dormant for some time—has resurfaced. When this crisis developed between Shamir and Peres it assumed a certain shape: Shamir objected to points in the Baker plan, while Peres approved what was included in the plan. However, we should not make mistakes in assessing the reality of this Zionist crisis, for the difference between Shamir and Peres is not in the essence; it is only in the form and the method.

Shamir and Peres agree on rejecting a Palestinian state, the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination, and the restoration of Arab Jerusalem. Unlike Shamir, who works openly to Judaize all the occupied territories, Peres thinks that Israel has to take the international community, which objects to continued occupation, into consideration and to show flexibility, as long as this flexibility does not affect the essence of the occupation. The flexibility is part of the attempt to besiege and terminate the intifadah in exchange for a self-rule that, in practical terms, does not afford the Palestinians any of their legitimate rights. This alleged flexibility, moreover, does not extend, for example, to tearing down the settlements in the occupied Arab territories or halting settlement activity.

The Baker plan is, in brief, an attempt to bring the projected administrative self-rule for the Palestinians to fruition and make it a tangible reality. The Americans think, along with Peres, that Israel's public image has been tarnished and that it is time to beautify it.

Our Palestinian people, represented by their valiant intifadah, have rejected every plan that does not lead to self-determination. They considered Shamir's proposals at the time a sedative and nothing more. The proposals remind us of General de Gaulle's offer during the French occupation of Algeria, when he demanded that the Algerian fighters surrender their weapons within the context of what he termed "the peace of the brave." The Algerians, of course, rejected the offer, and continued their struggle until they won full independence. There is no doubt that clinging to Palestinian rights and continuing the struggle will deepen the current Zionist crisis and force Israel to give in and accept the right to self-determination.

Al-Asad Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

JN1503170690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 15 Mar (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of congratulations to President Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as president of the USSR. Following is the text of the cable:

On your election as president of the USSR, I am pleased to extend my heartfelt congratulations and wishes for success in your important responsibilities. I would like also to stress that we are eager to enhance the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, which have successfully achieved the interests of our two peoples and their mutual benefit. I take this opportunity to express best wishes for your happiness and good health, and more prosperity for the Soviet Union's friendly people.

Afghanistan

Najibullah's 'Refuge' in Foreign Embassy Denied

BK1503152090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 15 (AFP)—The Afghan Government reacted angrily Thursday [15 March] to allegations that President Najibullah had taken refuge in a foreign diplomatic mission here during last week's failed coup d'etat.

"We have a saying that you cannot hide the sun with two fingers," a government spokesman said, a day after the charge was levelled by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. You cannot escape reality." Mr. Najibullah was in the presidential palace throughout the 24 hours of bitter fighting during the coup mounted by his defence minister Shahnawaz Tanay, the spokesman said. He commanded anti-coup operations throughout the coup and made repeated radio and television broadcasts, which would not have been possible from a foreign embassy, he said.

The allegation was first levelled by coup organisers, many of whom fled from Kabul after it failed. The spokesman said the charges appeared designed to show that "anti-coup operations were assisted by the Soviets." "This is totally false and unfounded," he added.

The statement came as Mr. Najibullah promoted 24 officers to the rank of brigadier general for their role in putting down the coup. The move took to 52 the number of officers promoted after the March 6 putsch failed.

Sectors of the Air Force were the principal supporters of General Tanay, who was supported by Pakistan-based Afghan resistance leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami group. Kabul has alleged that Islamabad helped organise the coup, but Ms. Bhutto denied this Wednesday.

Foreign Ministry Note Names Coup Plotters

LD1503162990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today [15 March] at 1230. The following matters were conveyed to him by order of the First Political Department:

Based on incriminating documents and evidence, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan states that the Pakistani Military Intelligence and the Government of Pakistan were involved in planning the abortive Shahnawaz-Golbuddin coup d'etat of 6 March. Through their actions the coup plotters have committed unforgiveable crimes against the country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity and against the values of the policy of national reconciliation. They have caused the killing and wounding of tens of our compatriots, including civilians and military persons and have inflicted great losses on public property and individuals.

Reliable information shows that the escape of the traitors Shahnawaz and Niaz Muhammad Mohmand and of their families and collaborators had been agreed with the authorities of that country in the event the attempted coup d'etat failed, and they were ready to welcome their defeated servants. The main and number one agent for this killing and destruction is the Government of Pakistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan condemns this antihuman and vindictive action by the Government of Pakistan and strongly protests to the Government of Pakistan. In line with international norms, the Government of Pakistan is dutybound to hand over these traitors and criminals, whose names are as follows, as soon as possible to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan for legal trial, and to return the public property—two aircraft and one helicopter—that they took away with them:

1. Former Defense Minister Shahnawaz, son of 'Abdul Hakim.
2. Former Politburo member and People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee secretary, Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, son of Honar Gul.
3. Former deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Air Force and Air Defense Force, 'Abdul Qadir Agah, son of 'Abdul Ghafur.
4. Former Chief of the General Staff of the Air Force, Mir Hamza, son of Jahangir.
5. Former commander of Shindand garrison, Ghulam Rasul, son of Jandad.
6. Former commander of the 22d Brigade for protecting highways, Azizorrahman, son of 'Abdul Ghafar.
7. Former head of communications of the Ministry of Defense, Ghulam Hazrat, son of Abdurrazaq.
8. Former deputy commander of Bagram Infantry Division No. 40, Golbat, son of Muhammad Jahan.
9. Former commander of AN-12 aircraft flight personnel, Golabuddin, son of Alefdin.
10. Former AN-12 pilot, Khushal, son of Nawsha.
11. Former AN-12 [word indistinct] Muhammad Nasir, son 'Abdul Qudus.
12. Former AN-12 (?technician) Munir Ahmad, son of Nur Ahmad.
13. Shahnawaz aide Ahmad Shah, son of Ghulam Nabi
14. Shahnawaz aide Mirways, son of Zamanuddin.
15. Shahnawaz aide Ehsanullah, son of Raz Muhammad.
16. Shahnawaz aide Ziauddin, son of Jamaluddin.
17. Former AN-12 (?technician) Sayfuddin, son of Wazirkhan.

Rebel Leaders Reported Aligning Against Hekmatyar

BK1603043690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0402 GMT 16 Mar 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 16 (AFP)—Collusion between the Afghan communists and a radical fundamentalist resistance group led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar has left the mujahidin leader completely isolated within his own Sunni alliance, sources close to the resistance said.

The one-year-old Afghan Interim Government (AIG) in exile, a Peshawar-based alliance of seven Sunni parties, appeared clearly set to distance itself from Mr. Hekmatyar, who had been one of the group's main leaders, the sources added. The six other AIG members have said they would continue efforts towards better coordination, especially with the Iran-based Afghan Shiite parties.

The statement came 10 days after the failed coup attempt by Kabul's then defence minister, General Shahnawaz Tanay, in which Mr. Hekmatyar was said to be implicated.

A meeting held Thursday [15 March] by the AIG's moderate Jamiat-e Eslami faction to commemorate the 11th anniversary of an important uprising in Herat turned into a group bashing of Mr. Hikmatyar. They lashed at his pact with "communist criminals" such as Gen. Tanay who they said had "slaughtered millions of Afghans" before and after the Soviet occupution. All principal AIG leaders attended the meeting, except for Mr. Hekmatyar, a 42-year-old ethnic Pathan. In private, the leaders have also criticised the secret service of host Pakistan, which they said would continue to support the radical fundamentalist party.

During Thursday's meeting, Jamiat-e Eslami leader Burhanuddin Rabbani held talks with several mujahidin leaders of the mountainous region of Paghman, north-east of Kabul, including Commander Anouari [name as received] who is affiliated to the Shiite Harakat-e Eslami movement, sources within the party said. The talks focused on how to organise joint actions, not only against the pro-Soviet Kabul government of President Najibullah but also against the spreading influence of Mr. Hekmatyar's group, the sources said.

The political leaders of the Sunni resistance, who have attempted for weeks to set an electoral process to provide a wider base for their interim government, were said to be furious against Mr. Hikmatyar's repeated past attempts to bring down their plans for a "grand assembly." The angry leaders included the alliance's Prime Minister Rasul Sayyaf who had been known to be close to Mr. Hekmatyar. Western sources have said the two leaders received financial aid from Saudi Arabia.

A spokesman of Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud of the "Northern Council"—a political-military force affiliated with the Jamiat-e Eslami and holding a wide influence in several Afghan provinces—said in Peshawar they had received a joint message from Mr. Sayyaf, the alliance's moderate leader Sebghatullah Mojaddedi and royalist and hereditary Sufi leader Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani. Pir Gaylani, who was in Iran with Mr. Rabbani earlier this month, was to return to Tehran to resume talks with an alliance of nine Afghan Shiite parties which the Sunni group hopes would join the elections, various sources have said.

A political analyst in Islamabad said the mujahidin interim government, already moribund with its "inefficiency and lack of representativeness," has suffered another shock with Mr. Hekmatyar's "treason." The actions of the radical leader have apparently galvanised the other resistance leaders, added a Western diplomat who said the final result could take some time to be sorted out.

More on Tanay's 'Unimpressive' News Conference

BK1603065990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Mar 90 pp 1, 6

[From Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text] Lowgar (Afghanistan), March 15—The short-statured, big-moustached Gen. Shahnawaz Tanay who almost succeeded in toppling Afghan President Dr. Najibullah in a coup attempt on March 6, tried to put up a brave face when he confronted journalists for the first time after the event here on Wednesday [14 March].

But the setting of his news conference in a dark, gas-lighted cave in a Hezbe-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) base in Lowgar Province about 70 kilometres south of Kabul, explained his predicament and the hopelessness of his cause. He wore his General's uniform to emphasise that he still considered himself Afghanistan's legal Defence Minister but insisted on keeping his cap on his knees rather than on the head despite requests by journalists to do so. He however obliged the photographers later while posing for pictures in the company of mujahidin with his cap on his head.

Saying that he had grasped both conventional and guerrilla war tactics during his long military career, Gen. Tanay emerged very much a professional soldier rather than a politician in the news conference. He frequently turned to the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Politburo member Niaz Muhammad Mohmand for advice when trying to deflect ticklish questions. He parried most queries by arguing that he had answered them in his opening remarks. Overall, it was an unimpressive performance.

Like Gen. Tanay, his two other colleagues were also uniformed. The older one was Lt. Gen. 'Abdul Qadir Agah, Chief of the Afghan Air Force, and the younger, handsome fellow was Brig. Gen. Ghulam Hazrat, who was identified both as the Afghan Army's Communication Chief and as the Corps Commander for Jalalabad. Gen. Agah was called upon to answer one query about their strength in the Air Force. He repeated Gen. Tanay's allegation that "foreign planes" bombed the Bagram Airbase destroying their headquarters and putting their aircraft and pilots out of operation. "We are trying to recover and regroup", mused the grey-haired General. More articulate was Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, a

prominent Khalqi who was one of the earliest members of PDPA. When certain over-zealous Arab journalists entered into a debate with Gen. Tanay telling him that one cannot be a Muslim and Khalqi at the same time, Muhmand came to his rescue by pointing out that Dr. Najib too had denied being a communist. Both he and Gen. Tanay stressed that they were Muslims and PDPA members at the same time.

Gen. Tanay appeared unconvincing when he said that he had set up a mobile command and was operating in the vicinity of Kabul. Questing as to why he was escorted by Hezb-e Eslami bodyguards and talked to the press in the party's base, agitated one's mind because none of his supporters in the Armed Forces were in sight. [sentence as published] He and his colleagues were driven away to an unknown destination in a convoy of three vehicles under a Hezb-e Eslami escort after the news conference.

Flatly denying that he had flown to Pakistan after the failure of his coup bid on March 7, Gen. Tanay said he had come to meet the journalists after receiving a message near Lowgar's capital Pol-e Alam where he was leading operations against Kabul regime. But a number of mujahidin, mostly belonging to Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi's Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami and Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani's NIFA [National Islamic Front of Afghanistan], claimed in conversations with this scribe in Paktia and Lowgar Provinces that they had seen Tanay travelling towards Lowgar under heavy escort earlier in the day on March 13. Some maintained that he had crossed over into Afghanistan from Pakistan the same day but it could not be confirmed. Interestingly enough, the names of Gen. Tanay as well as his three colleagues present in the press conference had figured in the lists of defecting persons who had landed in Parachinar and in Jamrud in a military transport plane and helicopter on March 7. The idea behind the exercise in arranging a meeting between Tanay and the media people was to prove that he was still fighting in Afghanistan and had not reached Pakistan as reported in the press. It is doubtful whether the plan worked.

The media party comprising about 30 Western, Arab, Pakistani and Afghan journalists, had risked a lot while undertaking the long, two-day clandestine trip to Lowgar via Paktia. Their convoy of eight vehicles was bombed by one Afghan MiG jet-fighter at 11.30 p.m. on March 13 near Sarkay in Paktia Province and had a narrow escape. The lone bomb dropped on the convoy fell beside the muddy, kutcha road and its shrapnel hit a mujahidin pick-up making up the rear. Three persons reportedly sustained injuries and the vehicle was damaged. The aerial attack was more due to lack of precautionary measures as the vehicles were travelling in a long convoy with their headlights on. It was a ready target for the bomber. The press convoy was later stranded at Qasem Kheyl in Paktia due to a roadblock in the heavy snow forcing the journalists, including two women, to walk for about four and a half hours in the night in the chilly, uninhabited mountains. They could sleep only for about two and a half hours before waking up to meet Gen. Tanay in a place in southern Lowgar.

Najibullah Meets Hazara, Shiite Representatives

LD1503192990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this morning with a jirgah of the commanders inside of the ninth formations [Iran based opposition] and representatives of the Hazara nationality and Shiite sect in the hall of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Dr. 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, vice-president, the deputy chairman of Sena, the minister of planning, the mayor of Kabul, and the head of the nationality Department of the Council of Ministers were also present. [passage omitted]

Then esteemed Najibullah spoke and in the course of revealing the nature and aims of Shahnawaz-Gobuddin (Shahnawaz Tanay and Golbuddin Hekmatyar] failed coup d'etat, he added that the aim of the failed coup attempt by Shahnawaz-Golbuddin was not only to take power and to replace people and posts, but, the truth of the matter and the nature of the issue is in the fact that the two policies—the reconciliation policy and the war policy—are diametrically opposed. In studying the result of the incidents during the last 11 years, we came to the conclusion that war and military solutions will not solve anything. Therefore, we embarked boldly on declaring the policy of peace and reconciliation. We announced political pluralism, that is a number of political parties, and paved the ground for the participation of all the forces in a broad based government. Various strata of our people expressed support for this humanitarian and Islamic policy which is the only path towards ending war and bloodshed in our country. However, it was not accepted by ancient enemies of the Republic of Afghanistan. They destroyed the nation of Afghanistan with their huge financial and military assistance and inflicted considerable damage to our country. Therefore, our ancient enemies joined forces with a number of fundamentalists and sold out extremists elements who have deserted their norms, standards, commitments, honor, and respect and wanted to create a bloodbath in our country. Fortunately, they did not achieve their goals as a result of efforts by our Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

At the end, a gift from the Hazara nationality and Shiite sect was presented to esteemed Najibullah by Ayatollah Azari Ofogay as a gesture of national reconciliation. It was accepted with thanks. [passage omitted]

The full proceedings of this jirgah will be published in the press.

Najibullah Meets With Armed Forces Personnel

Defense Ministry, National Guard

LD1503204390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, met yesterday morning with the members of the leadership delegation of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to a report by BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY'S [BIA] military section, during this meeting, esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, spoke in connection with the sacrifices by the army soldiers, NCO's and officers in defense of the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country, and their active participation in foiling the failed coup of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin. He specified the future duties and responsibilities of the members of the leadership delegation of the Defense Ministry toward further enhancing the combat readiness of the units and companies, implementing the national reconciliation policy, and in ensuring peace and security in the country.

In reply, Defense Minister General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, on behalf of that ministry's leadership and personnel, promised esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, that the ministry personnel are ready for any type of sacrifice in defense of the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country, and will carry out their duties in the best manner possible.

Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan met yesterday with the leadership delegation of the National Guard High Command. According to a report by BIA's military section, esteemed Najibullah praised the active participation of the National Guard units and companies in foiling the failed coup d'etat of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin, and specified the future responsibility and missions of the National Guard personnel in implementing the national reconciliation policy and in ensuring peace and security in the country.

In return Lieutenant General Sayyed Azam Sayyed, high commander of the National Guard spoke on behalf of the command's personnel and pledged to carry out with a high patriotic morale the duties entrusted to them toward full implementation of the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation and ensuring peace in the country, and will deliver crushing blows to those opposing the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country.

Air Defense Forces

LD1503205190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, met yesterday with members of the leadership delegation of the Air and Air Defense Forces in the Headquarters of that command.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that during this meeting, esteemed Najibullah spoke about the valuable role of the pilots, engineers, and other personnel of the units of and companies of the Air Defense Forces in foiling the aggression by Pakistani militarists, Saudi Wahhabis, and extremist group, and in crushing the failed coup d'etat of Shahnawaz and Golbuddin. He described their future duties and responsibilities in protecting the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country. Lieutenant General 'Abdul Fatah, high commander of the Air and Air Defense Forces, spoke on behalf of everyone and pledged to esteemed Najibullah that all the personnel of the air and air defence forces will heroically and firmly defend the airspace of the country. They will carry out their duties as their fathers and forefathers did in foiling foreign aggression and conspiracies by the enemies of Afghanistan.

Party Activists

LD1403223890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) and President of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee while General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defence, Farid Ahmad Mazdak, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, Nazar Muhammad, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, Raz Muhammad Paktin, minister of interior and 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, secretary of the Council for the Defense of the Country were present met in the Storay Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the party activists of the Armed Forces today. [sentence as received]

At the outset of the meeting several participants on behalf of others expressed their views and proposals in relation to the present situation in the country as well as improvement and upgrading of the qualitative level of their activities.

At the end of the session President Najibullah while shedding light on the prevailing situation in the country and explaining present duties of the Armed Forces appreciated boldness, bravery and vigilance of the Armed Forces for the repelling of the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin abortive coup last week.

Watanjar, 'Azimi Visit Army Units, Explain Coup

LD1503095790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 12, BAKHTAR—Full General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, defence minister of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], met today with the personnel of the detachments of Armed Forces and representatives of social organisations and explained to them about the abortive coup of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin.

Similarly, Full General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi, first deputy defence minister also visited the detachments of Qargha infantry forces stationed in Kariz-emir, northeast of Kabul during which, General 'Azimi exposed the nature of the abortive coup by Shahnawaz-Golbuddin under the order of Pakistan Inter-Service Intelligence, ISI, causing human casualty and huge financial losses.

Later, he submitted the orders and medals of the RA and the cash prizes to those soldiers and officers who had taken active part in thwarting the abortive coup of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin.

The participants of the above-mentioned detachment assured the Afghan defence minister and the first deputy defence minister of their readiness in thwarting any conspiracy and for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation.

Najibullah Awards State Honors to Officers

LD1603131590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] In accordance with a decree by esteemed Najibullah, president of the Afghanistan, the "April Revolution" medal has been awarded to Brigadier General 'Abdul Rahman, son of 'Abdul Hakim, and the title "Hero of Afghanistan" and the "Golden Star" medal have been awarded to Colonel pilot Muhammad Azim, son of Muhammad Yaqub, in recognition of their valuable services and active participation in foiling the failed coup d'etat by Shahnawaz-Golbuddin.

High Council of Supreme Court Condemns Coup

LD1503040390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 12, BAKHTAR—The High Council of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) presided over by Nezamuddin Tahzeb, supreme judge of the RA held its session here today and assessed the issues included in the agenda. At the outset of the meeting the session discussed on the unsuccessful coup of March 6th, 1990 which resulted in killing of a number of our citizens as well as inflicting heavy damages to the residential areas. Likewise, participants of the session while strongly condemning the coup expressed their wrath and indignation as well.

The session assessed a number of the issues related to the courts and adopted necessary measures in this connection as well.

Post-Coup Support for Najibullah Evident

Messages Continue To Arrive

LD1503100290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 12, BAKHTAR—Series of the arrival of messages addressed to Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) continue from all parts of the country.

The BAKHTAR correspondents reported that peoples of all walks of life while condemning the abortive Shahnawaz-Golbuddin coup d'etat have expressed their full solidarity with the state, heroic Armed Forces of the country and the humanistic and Islamic policy of national reconciliation.

The messages from the social and party organisations, contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces, state and cultural departments, productive institutions in the capital and provinces says that it is a matter of pleasure to every Afghan that the abortive coup organised by Shahnawaz-Golbuddin and Pakistani Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) was timely foiled and the people and country were saved from a real danger. The messages demand immediate trial and punishment of the traitors.

The contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces in their messages have assured Afghan leadership and Higher Council for the Defence of the Country that they are ready to foil such conspiracies in future.

Likewise, President Najibullah has received a congratulatory message from the Pushtun [word indistinct] Student Federation of Pakistan on the occasion of the foiling of the coup by the Armed Forces of the RA.

The message has expressed hope for the further victory of the Armed Forces for the deterrence of the enemies plots and intrigues and preservance of independence, territorial integrity and people's sovereignty of the RA.

Rallies Held 13 Mar

LD1603105190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR—Messages of solidarity have been received here from some social organisations, detachments of the Armed Forces and state and government bodies of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA. They have congratulated the leadership of the RA for the success scored in the suppression of the criminal and unsuccessful [passage indistinct] the death and injury of a number of Afghans and has destroyed several shrines

and state public utilities. They have called on the leadership of the RA to punish severely the perpetrators of this crime as soon as possible.

Likewise, our countrymen in rallies held in the capital and provinces of the country today [13 March] severely condemned the criminal conspiracy of the abortive coup staged by Shahnawaz-Golbuddin and expressed their deep indignation to these national traitors. Such rallies and meetings were held in some of the state bodies, social organisations and detachments of the Armed Forces.

Speakers in these rallies stated that under such conditions when the people of Afghanistan are devoting their attention to the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation and cessation of war and bloodshed, Shahnawaz in collusion with the extremist groups of Golbuddin and Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence, ISI, intended to drown the peaceful people of Afghanistan in blood and to jeopardize the freedom and independence of the country.

The participants of the rallies and meetings expressed their all-sided solidarity with the state of the RA for the realisation of the objectives of the policy of national reconciliation and establishment of a nation-wide peace.

Investigation of Coup Plotters Begins

LD1403225690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 12, BAKHTAR—The special attorney assigned to assess the great national treason of the coup plotters led by Shahnawaz who had staged abortive coup against the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country as well as gains of the national reconciliation went into session here today presided over by chairmen of the special attorney.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that during the session necessary decisions were made on the legality of arresting and imprisonment of the accused of unsuccessful coup of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin as well as supervision of the investigation process of the case and necessary decisions were adopted about the acceleration of the discovery and investigation process and exacerbation of the completion of the files of the accuseds.

Likewise, a proposal was submitted to the concerned authorities on the improvement, quick investigation, and timely pursuance of the files of conspirators.

Mojaddedi Denies Mujahidin Involved in Coup

PM1403144190 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 7 Mar 90 p 1

[Muhammad Mahjub report: "Mojadeddi Tells 'UKAZ: Mujahidin Have Nothing To Do With Coup"]

[Excerpt] By telephone, Peshawar, Kabul, agencies—As heavy fighting was raging in Kabul in a coup attempt against Najibullah's regime, Professor Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, president of the Islamic Government of Afghanistan, told 'UKAZ that the Afghan mujahidin government had nothing to do with the coup attempt which Najibullah admitted was staged against him. There was fighting in the Afghan capital Kabul between the Kabul regime's forces and the attackers.

On Najibullah's statement that the coup attempt was carried out by Defense Minister General Shahnawaz Tanay in cooperation with Golbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami, Professor Mojadeddi told 'UKAZ: We have no knowledge of such connection.

He pointed out, however, that Hikmatyar was in agreement with Gen Tanay. The president of the Islamic Government of Afghanistan affirmed that the mujahidin government would never agree with the communists, share power with them, or give them any seats in the cabinet. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Protests Helicopter Intrusion

LD1603105390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR—The ad interim charge d'affairs of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) today and the strongest protest of the Government of Afghanistan in relation to the continuation of Pak aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan was conveyed to him by the director of the First Political Division of that ministry.

The protest note says that on March 12, 1990 two Pakistani helicopters intruded Jaji Meydan areas inside the RA territory and after making reconnaissance flight on that area returned to the Parachinar area.

The Government of the RA lodges its strongest protest against such Pakistani aggressions, which are contrary to the international principles and against the national sovereignty of Afghanistan, and believes that the grave consequences of such adventurism will be to the Pakistani side.

India

Singh Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

BK1503131490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, has felicitated the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, on his election as executive president. In his message, Mr Singh said that Gorbachev's bold and imaginative initiatives have contributed significantly to the lessening of tensions and the promotion of international peace and cooperation.

ROK Foreign Minister Arrives for Two-Day Visit

BK1503131690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The foreign minister of Republic of Korea, Mr Choe Ho-chung, arrived in New Delhi on a two-day visit. He was received at the airport among others by the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral.

Maldives President Heads Delegation to Delhi

BK1503081890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The president of Maldives, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, arrived in New Delhi today on a three-day visit to the country. He was given a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house]. The visiting president inspected a guard of honor and 21 guns boomed in salute. Mr. Gayoom is accompanied by his foreign minister, Mr. Fathulla Jameel. Talking to newsmen, Mr. Gayoom said that he would have wide-ranging discussions with the president, Mr. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh.

Holds Talks With Singh

BK1503162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that what India is facing now in Kashmir is nothing less than a direct intervention from across the border. What was covert before has been overt. No country can compromise with its integrity.

The prime minister made these remarks during his talks with the president of Maldives, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, in New Delhi today. The Maldives president who arrived in New Delhi on a three-day state visit had nearly two-hour-long discussions with the prime minister.

Mr. V.P. Singh informed the visiting dignitary that in spite of these developments, India is exercising the maximum restraint and trying to maintain bilateral relations so that the correct message goes to Pakistan. He said attempts to dilute the Simla agreement are not wise. India's commitment to the Simla agreement is never in doubt. Mr. V.P. Singh expressed happiness that the international community has appreciated India's efforts to improve its relations with the neighboring countries.

Mr. V.P. Singh also informed the Maldives president that the Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka will be out of that country by the end of this month.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations, an official spokesman said that the Maldives president appreciated the Government of India's efforts to maintain peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

Venkataraman Hosts Banquet

BK1603040290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The president has said that India gives the highest priority to its relations with its immediate neighbors to achieve peace in the region. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Maldivian president, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, in New Delhi last night, Mr. Venkataraman said India desires peace, security, and stability in South Asia for the overall socioeconomic development of the region. He also stressed the need to make the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, an effective vehicle of regional economic cooperation. He hoped that the SAARC summit to be held in Male will be a productive meet.

The president reiterated India's demand to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, free from competing influences and military presence of the great powers.

Mr. Venkataraman said the Nonaligned Movement had always recognized the paramount importance of coexistence of the nations at different levels of economic development with different political systems.

Referring to the cordial ties with the Maldives, the president said the agreement waiving visas for Maldivian nationals traveling to India is bound to facilitate and strengthen the people-to-people relationship between the two countries. The president also offered India's assistance to the Maldives for its social and economic development.

India and the Maldives have signed a second cultural exchange program yesterday. It envisages the strengthening and developing of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries through exchanges in the fields of education, art and culture, sports, radio, television, and films.

Gujral Voices 'Concern' Over Israeli Settlements

BK1103161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] India today expressed concern at the Israeli intention to settle a large number of Soviet Jews in the occupied territory and called for speedy and united action by the international community. Addressing the Nonaligned Movement's committee of nine foreign ministers on Palestine in Tunis, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said this development could affect security and peace in West Asia. Mr. Gujral pointed out that this is likely to increase the existing tension in the occupied territory and may even result in more violence and conflict.

In a message conveyed by Mr. Gujral to the PLO president, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, said that India stood by its principled support to the Palestinian cause. Mr. V.P. Singh said that he agreed with Mr. 'Arafat in bringing

pressure on Israel for its policy of resettling the Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab areas. Mr. Gujaral, who met the PLO leader in the Tunisian capital of Tunis today, disclosed to newsmen that Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. 'Arafat are due to meet in Namibia on the 23d of this month. The PLO president is also scheduled to pay a state visit to India later this month.

The external affairs minister is in Tunis to attend the meeting of the group of nine nonaligned foreign ministers to follow up the developments on the Palestinian front.

Charges Filed Over Kickbacks in FRG Submarine Deal

BK0503132290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] today filed an FIR [First Information Report] in a Delhi court in connection with the HDW [Howaldtswerke Deutsche Werft] submarine deal. A bureau spokesman told our correspondent that Mr. J.R. Hinduja and Mr. S.K. Bhatnagar are on the list of accused as stated in the FIR. The others are Mr. S.S. Sidhu, Mr. B.S. Ramaswamy, Mr. M. Kandak, and Vice Admiral M.R. Sohankar. The charges mentioned in the FIR are criminal conspiracy, breach of trust, embezzlement, bribery, corruption, and criminal misconduct by public servants.

Investigation Opens 12 Mar

BK1303032090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] conducted preliminary examination of Captain M. Kondath and Mr. J.C. Ajmani yesterday in connection with the alleged payment of kickbacks in the 465-crore-rupee HDW [Howaldtswerke Deutsche Werft] submarine deal.

Captain Kondath, the former director of Submarine Arms, has been named as an accused in the FIR [First Information Report]. Mr. Ajmani, the former Indian ambassador at Bonn, had sent a telegram in February 1987 stating that a West German Defense Ministry official had regretted that seven percent commission payable to Indian agents in the deal had caused to it financial liability. A CBI spokesman said that the preliminary examination of the two is likely to throw more light on the deal and subsequent developments.

Parliament Adopts Unanimous Resolution on Kashmir

BK1503125590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Parliament has unanimously declared that no sinister design will be permitted against the unity and territorial integrity of the country. In an extraordinary show of strength the two Houses adopted similar resolutions expressing the country's resolve to thwart secessionism and subversion at any cost. The nation stands united and committed to this goal.

A resolution moved by the leader of the opposition, Mr. Shiv Shanker, was adopted in the Rajya Sabha today, while a similar resolution was adopted by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday [13 March]. The resolution lauded the role of the people of Kashmir in nation-building and called upon the misguided sections to abjure violence and take a recourse to peaceful ways for redressal of their grievances.

Earlier, replying to the two-day long special debate on the situation in Kashmir, the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, said a categorical message must go in clear terms that Kashmir is an integral part of India and any secessionist activity will be put down with a heavy hand. He said several steps are being taken to bring back normalcy in the valley. An all-party conference on Kashmir will be called soon, a delegation will be visiting Jammu on Saturday [17 March], and an action plan will be prepared to bring the people back to the mainstream.

Participating in the resumed debate, members from both sides urged the government to take urgent steps to win back the hearts of the people in the valley through a policy of reconciliation and help of patriotic forces.

Home Minister Assails Pakistan

BK1503162890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Parliament has unanimously declared that no sinister design will be permitted against the unity and territorial integrity of the country. In an extraordinary show of strength the two houses adopted similar resolutions expressing the country's resolve to thwart secessionism and subversion at any cost. [passage omitted]

Earlier, replying to the two-day-long special discussion on the situation [in the Lok Sabha], the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, said that a multi-pronged action is being taken to revive political activity and restore normalcy in the valley. An all party conference on Kashmir will be convened soon. A delegation of leaders will be visiting Jammu on Saturday [17 March]. An action plan will be prepared to bring the people back to the mainstream.

In a blistering criticism of Pakistan, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, said Islamabad has tried to destabilize Kashmir in the name of religion ever since the partition. He said the Muslims, who had migrated to Pakistan from India, have still not been assimilated in that country and are being called muhajirs.

During the resumed debate, members from both sides urged the government to restore the confidence of the people in the valley through a policy of reconciliation and help of patriotic people.

Bhutto's Remarks 'Inflammatory'

BK1503160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi today took strong exception to the reported remarks of the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The deputy high commissioner of Pakistan in New Delhi, Mr. (Shafkat Takhel), was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs and an oral protest was lodged about the reported remarks of the Pakistan prime minister.

An official spokesman told newsmen that Ms. Bhutto's reported statement violated the Simla Agreement. The statement is inflammatory and tantamount to incitement to violence.

Anti-Infiltration Plans

BK0903162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] The director general of the BSF [Border Security Forces], Mr H.P. Bhatnagar, has said that Pakistani trained subversives in the Kashmir Valley will be dealt with more firmly than before. Addressing a news conference in Jammu, he said BSF has been delegated powers to make searches in the valley to unearth arms and subversives. He said the BSF has embarked on a new action plan to form a second line of defense along the line of actual control so as to prevent infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir. Additional forces will also be deployed for this purpose.

Meanwhile, there was no curfew relaxation in Srinagar and some other towns today. However, it was relaxed for 3 hours in Anantnag, (Kutwara), and Bijbiara. Curfew will be relaxed for 5 hours tomorrow in Srinagar from 0500. No untoward incident has been reported in the city today.

Kashmiri Politician Resigns From Rajya Sabha

BK1503161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 90?

[Text] Mr. Ghulam Rasool Matto, National Conference [Party], has resigned from the Rajya Sabha. He submitted his resignation to the chairman today.

5 Killed, 20 Injured in Bihar Clash 12 Mar

BK1303145890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] In Bihar, at least five persons were killed and over 20 injured in a clash between two communities in Gulni village in Nawada District yesterday. According to an official spokesman, the situation is reported to be tense but under control.

The state chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, today visited the village. He announced an ex gratia payment of 1 lakh rupees to the next of kin of the deceased and 10,000 rupees to the injured persons.

Army Placed on Alert

BK1603031090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] In Bihar, three persons were killed following violence in Jamshedpur yesterday. Two persons were killed in police firing and one in group clashes. An official spokesman told our Patna correspondent, Mustafa, this morning that an indefinite curfew has been imposed in some parts of the steel city and the Army has been put on the alert to assist the civil authorities. The spokesman also said police had to open fire to disperse rioters indulging in arson.

Iran

Embassy in Paris Issues Statement on Hostages

NC1603160590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Today the Iranian Embassy in Paris announced that the Iranian Government will spare no effort which might help release the hostages, regardless of their nationalities. The embassy denied any relation between the holding of the hostages and the Islamic Republic of Iran. A statement issued by the embassy denounced every act endangering the lives of innocent people.

Larijani on Obstacles to Iran-U.S. Ties

LD1503193190 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Hostages are not the main stumbling block in U.S.-Iran relations, thinks a Foreign Ministry advisor, but "the basic problem is U.S. definition of its so-called interests in the region and the world, as well as its policy to realise them."

In his weekly political column in the Persian daily ETTELA'AT today, Mohammad Javad Larijani said the U.S. is after its vested interests in the Persian Gulf, and has been seeking to politically dominate key Muslim countries like Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Iraq. "Not only that, the U.S. does not refrain from resorting to any illegitimate methods, including military coups, economic pressures and so on, in order to materialise its vested goals," he believes.

The major problem in Tehran's relations with Washington, according to the onetime Foreign Ministry deputy is, the Islamic Republic neither accepts those interests, nor condones the methods the U.S. uses to secure them. "If the U.S. really seeks relations with Iran, it should first limit its interests, and secondly revise its policies," he suggested.

The fact is, said the Iranian official, diplomatic ties do not run parallel with actual relations, since countries at

the peak of hostility have apparently kept their diplomatic relations, and in contrast, there are countries which have no diplomatic relations at all when no problem exists between them. "Diplomacy is a channel through which a government seek its interests, and it is simple-mindedness if we think that living is possible in today's world along with primitive contacts," he said.

However, the "awakening" generated by the Islamic revolution in Iran continue to cause waves in the Muslim world today, and that is a reality no wise man should ignore, said Larijani.

He made it clear that the time has come to an end when the U.S. military power terrified people, and this is more obvious in the Muslim world than any other place. "Today we are surrounded by various armed enemies. We will certainly not be frightened by their threats. However, we will look before we leap," said Larijani.

The hezbollah ummah have confidence in the Islamic government today, and they should powerfully safeguard this great centre of Islam against plots of the atheist world, and march forward, concluded Larijani.

Papers Cited on Relations With Britain

LD1503100490 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Following statements by British officials and press regarding resumption of political ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in a commentary Thursday reiterated Iran's stance that Imam Khomeyni's verdict on Salman Rushdie is "unchangeable".

Irano-British relations deteriorated after the publication of Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel 'THE SATANIC VERSES' which is tantamount to open aggression and insult on Islam's most sacred precepts.

"The fact is that the British Government is well aware that Imam Khomeyni's verdict is unalterable and that the Muslims will punish Rushdie wherever they find him," the commentary stressed adding "this is not a political issue but rather a religious verdict and the Muslims regard it as a religious obligation." It further stressed "There is no time limit or territorial boundary for execution of the verdict and the Muslims are ready to sacrifice their blood for it."

The daily, however, suggested "Britain can hand him over to Muslims in an Islamic country and let the verdict be executed there, if London is not willing to allow it to be carried out in the British territory.

"The British Government should realize that its conspiracies against the sanctities of over one billion world Muslims disclose depth of the hatred of the British colonialism against Islam."

"Undoubtedly, the crisis which emerged in relations between the Muslims and the British Government over Salman Rushdie affair, cannot easily be solved and London will have to pay dearly."

The commentary in conclusion said, "Muslims will, under no circumstances, trust England" adding, "the British Government as an anti-Islamic state, will always remain the target of the rage and anger of the Islamic world."

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial on Thursday however, welcomed statements by British officials who have expressed desire for betterment of relations with the Islamic Republic.

The editorial said, "Such statements are considered positive by Iran."

The daily noted, "despite the cut-off in political relations, economic, cultural and social contacts continue to be maintained between the two countries," and added "in fact England is at present one of the most important trading partners of Iran."

"Now that British officials have expressed a desire to have political relations with Iran, the obstacle should first be eliminated," it said.

"In fact the Majles ruling calling for clarification from London can be the axis for solving the problem between the two countries," it added.

The editorial concluded: "The British Government should have no problems in this regard because measures against disrespect and insult against major religions of the world with millions of followers, such as Islam and Christianity, are absolutely necessary to satisfy the public and this is also in accordance with the basic human rights principles."

ETTELA'AT Editorial on Soviet Jews' Immigration

NC1503164890 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 Feb 90 p 2

[Commentary: "The Immigration of Soviet Jews"]

[Text] In his speech at the opening ceremony of the seventh round of the international contest on Koranic recitation, the president referred to the meekness of the Koran and of the Islamic Republic and said:

"Instead of cooperating on the basis of the Koran, the Muslims are fragmented. The situation in the Soviet Union is changing. For the Muslims this means that the Jews are going to Israel from the Soviet Union and are seizing the homes of the Muslims and the Arabs."

The Soviet Union's act can be studied from various aspects:

1. The Soviet Union is facing the awakening of the Muslims, as well as its other nationalities. The immigration of the Soviet Jews to Israel is a step toward the stabilization of Israel's expansion and aggression and toward the creation of a dam of Soviet Jews vis-a-vis the

Palestinians. The Israeli Government is losing against the intifadah and is trying to create a popular resistance against the Muslims. Thus, it wants to place the Soviet Jews in front of the Muslims and to transform its armed and security forces into a referee—of course a referee whose final decision is a foregone conclusion.
2. In addition to the Soviet Union's Muslim-inhabited republics, there are Islamic countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey south of the Soviet borders. These countries and the Muslim nations will not accept the immigration of the Soviet Jews.
3. The Gorbachev government has tried to establish close relations with Islamic and Arab countries. The Governments of Egypt and Morocco may support the immigration of Soviet Jews and Egypt may act as a bridge for this immigration. But the Muslim nations in general cannot react positively and impartially to any act that allows Israeli expansionism and the continuation of Israel's aggression.
4. There is no doubt that the immigration of Soviet Jews make the West's news agencies, radio, television, and press laud Gorbachev greatly. He may even be named man of the century. But this propaganda will not last, and the government and the leadership of the Soviet Union will be remembered as people who tried to extinguish the movement of Islamic awakening and the Palestinians' resistance, and as those who loaded the gun of Israeli expansionism with Soviet Jewish bullets.
5. The Soviet Government may say that it is against the settlement of the Jews in the occupied territories, but everyone knows that history will not mention this opposition.

It is clear that Muslims can rely on no one but themselves and they will have no other refuge but the Koran. The movement of Islamic awakening will find its way.

And those who strive in our (cause), we will certainly guide them to our paths. [Koranic verse]

Velayati Addresses Geneva Conference on Iraq

LD1503185890 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Geneva, March 15, IRNA—The Islamic Republic has been a "victim of chemical weapons as well as political selectivity," said the Iranian foreign minister in his address to the World Disarmament Conference here today, and regretted that the mandate for the ad hoc committee on the chemical weapons convention was "compromised and remained incomplete against the will of the great majority of the members."

"We cannot risk our security and leave the CW convention now in exchange for a weak convention at the end," said 'Ali Akbar Velayati, noting that it should not be forgotten that "the Iraqi use of chemical weapons, followed by a chemical and missile build-up in the area, was a prime factor in giving momentum to the CW convention."

The Islamic Republic, noted Velayati has been a victim of chemical weapons as well as "political selectivity."

He said although for the moment world attention was turned towards Europe but the area from the Persian Gulf to North Africa can be "rightly called the mirror of history and mirror of the world."

This is most valid in regard to the chemical weapons convention, said Velayati and pointed out that "as the victim to the most extensive and horrendous chemical attacks," Iran has a "heartfelt desire for a ban on these weapons."

He went on: "We have suffered the catastrophic effects of chemical weapons on our military personnel as well as on our civilians. We have also been a first-hand witness to the holocaust in Halabjah which at its 2d anniversary still brings people to shivers, tears, anger and outrage. Thus to us, there is not just an obligation but a deep moral and true urge for the abolishment of these barbarous weapons."

Yet, against this background, deplored the foreign minister, the Islamic Republic is faced with a "complex paradox." "In our immediate vicinity," he continued, "we have a country that has waged a devastating war against us and, through it, has used chemical weapons at will, and even now, after the cease-fire, is engaged in an extensive and ambitious programme of development and stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons." "We cannot therefore," said Velayati "leave our security to the mercy of political decisions," especially in view of of the 'no war no peace' situation which "breeds tension in the region and keeps hostilities at the threshold of danger zone."

Elsewhere, the Iranian foreign minister noting the recent world developments, said "our beloved planet earth has at last found a very rare opportunity for peace... yet the seeds of discord are again being sown."

"The crumbling devastating ideology," he said, is being replaced with "an arrogant claim of total victory by the other. Truth is, in the eyes of the majority of the people of the world, deprived majority, both ideologies have failed as both are materialistic and foreign to human nature."

Velayati also dwelt on the dangers of nuclear weapons and said, "disarmament, in its true meaning can only be realized if arrogance and dominance give way to equality and justice."

Musavi-Ardabili's Sermon on Islamic Culture

LD1603112390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Today, the last Friday of this year, the monotheistic and faithful people of our country, with their solid participation in the Friday prayers, upheld this eternal Mohammadan rite.

In Tehran the religous-political Friday prayers were conducted in the University of Tehran and the surrounding streets with the participation of a large number of Hezbollahi people and under the imamate of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardeaili then referred to the issue of hijab [Islamic dress for women] in Islam and, emphasizing the need for enforcing genuine Islamic culture, he called on women to pay heed to the use of hejab and observance of Islamic practices.

In another part of his speech, referring to the need for helping the deprived people of the country and other Muslims of the world, which is in itself a kind of worship, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said: Now that the Muslims of the Caucasus have been set free after 72 years of bondage, they need Islamic books and we should help them as much as we can.

*Meshkini Warns Against Deviant Culture of West

90OI0202C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] Qom—On the day celebrating the appointment to prophecy of the Most Respected Prophet (Peace Be upon Him), the unified, enemy-defeating prayer service for political worship was held on Friday in Qom, the city of uprising, crusading, and independent judgment in matters or religious jurisprudence, led by Ayatollah Meshkini at the Qods Prayer Site.

According to this report, in his first sermon the Qom Friday imam urged the people to piety and abstinence and congratulated the Muslims of the world on the anniversary of the appointment to prophecy of the Most Respected Prophet, and spoke on the goals in the appointments of the prophets.

In his second sermon he praised the people for their solidarity in the demonstrations on God's day 22 Bahman [11 February] and he discussed the anniversary of the issuance by his holiness the imam (May God Have Mercy on Him) of the proclamation to the clergy. He said: The great clergy must study this proclamation again and again and decide seriously that it should be implemented. I believe that the clergy has not carried out its responsibility as it should. What it has done is little, the responsibility is higher than what has been done, the world now wants from us religion, the commands of God, and the way of happiness.

Ayatollah Meshkini condemned the slaughter of Muslims in Jamu, Kashmir, Tajikistan, and Baku and discussed the plots of the superpowers against the Muslims of Afghanistan. He said: A new plot against Afghanistan is now taking shape, now that America and the Soviet Union have reconciled. Why? Because a powerful enemy called Islam has raised the banner against them, now they want America and the Soviet Union to be the guardians of the Muslim people of Afghanistan with a puppet ruler there, but the Muslims of Afghanistan do not want America and the Soviet Union. They are independent and can select a leader for themselves.

We advise the clergy and the nation of Afghanistan to take care that the blood of their martyrs is not wasted.

The Friday imam said that the influence of the deviated culture of the West is the greatest danger to the revolution and Islam. He said: Our nation must know that the enemy has despaired of military measures, they know that they cannot oppose you, Islam, and the revolution in this way. They have taken up another path, they are making harmful tapes and photographs, along with harmful narcotics and clothing, and spreading them among the youth. History shows that if a nation cannot win militarily, it will then seek victory through corruption. Take care and do not allow the enemy to get into the schools, the danger of an ordinary photograph or tape is no less than that of a kilogram of heroin.

At the end of his sermons, Ayatollah Meshkini criticized the radio and television programs. He said: I say to you gentlemen who are running the radio and television stations that you are making the pious people of this country restless and unhappy. The martyrs and their spirits are ill at ease, the survivors of the martyrs are saying that the blood of their children is being wasted. Now the programs of the Voice and Vision are not acceptable or useful for the religious people or those who care for religion. Its programs are sensual for some people. Try not to drive the religious people out of your midst. I call upon the nation's high officials, who supervise the Voice and Vision, to resolve the problem with these people. They should sit down and say these things are religiously lawful, and they must solve the problem for the authorities as well, then we will sit down and they can talk, and if there is a problem, why do you make the religious people unhappy?

Afghan Shiite Assembly Concludes 3-Day Session

NC1603080390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] After three days of discussions and debate on the various problems of their country, the first assembly of Afghan Shiites concluded yesterday in Tehran with the adoption of a resolution.

According to the Central News Unit, at the concluding session, which was addressed by Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli, the participants adopted a resolution on the unity of all the Shiite mujahidin groups, which will be a step in creating unity among all the groups. They expressed the hope that attainment of unity among Shiites will be a precursor for complete unanimity among the Muslims of Afghanistan.

In another part of this resolution sectarianism and separatism of every kind were described as a deviation from the hallowed aspirations of the Islamic Revolution and as the outcome of the propaganda of the enemies of Islam. The participants in the assembly stressed the need

for a change in the present Afghanistan Government. They condemned the intervention of the superpowers of the East and West and called for the forging of Afghanistan's destiny by the people of that country and the creation of an independent and nonaligned Islamic system.

The participants castigated all attempts to impose heretical, deviant, or Wahhabi thought and demanded the upholding of the Islamic identity of the Muslim combatant people. They also urged the participation of women in forging their own destiny and in playing an appropriate role in the economic, social, and cultural reconstruction of their country.

In conclusion, the resolution expressed appreciation of the unstinting efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its multilateral support for the struggles of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, in particular the special attention by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the Muslims' cause. The resolution also expressed thanks for the convocation of the assembly.

According to our correspondent, during the course of this assembly, six [as heard] commissions were set up for the following: unity, military, political, and cultural reconstruction, and the role of the women of Afghanistan. These commissions held discussions on the assembly's agenda.

UN, Foreign Diplomats Visit Afghan Refugee Camps

NC1203063690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Recorded telephone report by unidentified correspondent in Mashhad]

[Text] A delegation consisting of the ambassadors of Switzerland, Italy, Australia, Norway, and Poland, accompanied by the charge d'affaires of Ireland and the heads of the UN offices in Iran, went to Khorasan Province to inspect the steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to help the Afghan refugees. The delegation went to the three guest cities (Miranshahr) of Nazdasht, (Dasht-e Taqva), and Shamsabad in Birjand and inspected the management of Afghan refugee affairs on the spot.

The visitors, who were accompanied by the director general of the Interior Ministry's immigrants office, officials of the responsible offices, the head of the Khorasan Province immigrants affairs office, and a number of experts, spoke to the Central News Unit correspondent and praised the services provided by the Islamic Republic. They said that correspondents should visit the area and report on the steps that have been taken in the domestic and foreign mass media.

The Italian ambassador stated: The most important thing we saw was the extent of the Islamic Republic's assistance to the Afghan refugees, asssistance that comes at a time when the Islamic Republic is itself facing numerous economic problems. The Italian ambassador added: Unfortunately the Iranian press, unlike the Pakistani press, does not report on the assistance to the Afghan refugees as fully as it should, when the assistance extended to the Afghan refugees by the Islamic Republic's government is truly noteworthy.

Editorial Views Coup Attempt in Afghanistan

NC1303103190 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Bells Toll for the Kabul Regime Again"]

[Text] On Tuesday morning the Afghanistan capital of Kabul woke to an uproar of guns and rockets. Apparently a coup led by the former cabinet minister Shahnawaz Khan was in the making. Later, the official sources said the coup d'etat had been foiled.

During the bloody attempt the Moscow installed government of President Najibullah lost its control over the capital for several hours.

Najibullah's fate was so uncertain that Moscow, represented by Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov withheld comment on what course of action it would take in the face of the Kabul regime's downfall. In other words even [the] Kremlin had its doubts if its man could survive the subversive attempt.

Well, what of it? The regime has for the time being saved its skin and has barely survived. What guarantee can this regime have that it will survive the next as well?

Both the regime and its Kremlin supporters are missing the point. A regime that has to incessantly live under a shadow of fear will not always make it.

Such a regime and all its advocates and in general the whole nation will suffer under insecurity of the highest degree. This will hamper any substantial planning and significant economic activity. Who is going to invest in such a shaky country where everything can turnabout just overnight? What international prestige will be accorded to a regime that not even its closest ally and mentor is sure as to what will happen to it over the next 24 hours?

Besides assuming that the coup led by Shahnawaz Khan had prevailed, would it solve the Afghan problem? The answer is a flat no. The Afghanistan issue, as it has been said by us time after time, will see its end only if a government enjoying the popular mandate assumes power.

The Muslim Afghan nation's aspiration is no more than establishing a sovereign government committed to the popular ideology, Islam, and not estranged from the national culture. No room is there for a regime subservient to any overseas lord.

In reality the regime in Kabul, in spite of all the window-dressing employed to paper over its alienated nature

from the Islam-oriented cultural milieu of the Afghan people, is seen as the fifth column of a foreign power in the country. This regime is sitting on a time-bomb which will sooner or later explode sending into the air the regime and many others with it. This coup failed but what about the next which is just round the corner as long as a proxy communist government is forcibly installed in this Muslim country?

The latest coup, however, should have at least once again tolled the bells of an ever imminent danger for Najibullah's regime and the USSR. There is just no loophole and the regime and its foreign supporters will have to succumb to a popular mandate one day.

Nuri Seeks Plan To Maintain Border Security

LD1203163590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Nuri, interior minister, this afternoon, in the annual seminar of the commanders and officials of the Gendarmerie held in Tehran, asked for a study and presentation of a comprehensive plan for maintaining the security of the country's borders. The interior minister emphasized that there are no problems with regard to foreign exchange or the rial when it comes to providing for the necessary resources to maintain the security of the country's borders. He expressed the hope that through the mobilization of resources and the cooperation of the governors of the border provinces, the project for safeguarding the security of the borders may be carried out in the course of the next two years.

*Nuri Denies Rumors of Anti-Regime Protests

90OI0207A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] News Department—In encounters with smugglers over the past three months by Revolution Guard and Committee forces, eight tons of narcotics have been found and confiscated.

This was announced at a press conference by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nuri, the interior minister and representative of the guardian of the Muslims' cause in the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC]. He said: With persistent and around-the-clock effort and precise planning, our brothers in the revolutionary guard and the komitehs have been able to confront the merchants of death in a significant way.

He added: In the last three months, eight tons of narcotics have been taken from these merchants of death, and this shows that insurgents and plotters have a plan for damaging our society.

The representative of the guardian of the Muslims' cause in the IRGC, continuing his remarks, mentioned the basic role played by the brothers in the revolutionary guard in preserving the authority of our Islamic government. He said: The Islamic Revolution Committee and the IRGC, as the brave forces of the revolution, are prepared to sacrifice their lives, property, and blood as in the past to defend Islam and the fruitful tree of Islam.

Continuing, he referred to the Islamic Revolution Committee as a police force in the society. He added: Through the course of the revolution, this force has been able to fight various movements by the mini-groups aimed at damaging the Islamic revolution.

The interior minister answered a question from the IRNA correspondent concerning published rumors about demonstrations against the officials. He characterized these rumors as humorous ones spread by the imperialist media.

He added: One of the enemy's most important plots is propaganda. When we close the BBC's Tehran office, we must not expect this mercenary radio to broadcast hopeful material.

He said: The foreign media was looking for material it could use to diminish the grandeur of the 22 Bahman [11 February] demonstration, because for our enemies abroad such a grand demonstration was not foreseeable.

The interior minister said: They expected small and brief demonstrations so that they could present analyses about the separation of the people from the government, but with the staging of this great demonstration, despite several days of holiday and inactivity in Tehran, the analyses of the enemies of the Islamic revolution were ruined. They saw that the people are allied with the government and the officials, and that they are continuing in the path laid out by the Imam.

He noted that this demonstration was such that even the enemies were forced to acknowledge it. He said: It is natural that our enemies would oppose this great demonstration with planning and extensive propaganda.

The interior minister mentioned the failure to hold a soccer match at Azadi and Martyr Shirudi stadiums. He said: We were not happy that the people were not informed that these games would not be held, but a small number of people, no more than a few hundred, misused this issue and chanted slogans against soccer and government officials in protest of the cancellation of the games. He added: This commotion lasted about an hour.

He said: Since world imperialism likes to talk about the people being separate from the government, for about 10 days it has continued this imaginary story and this matter has worried some groups of people in the country.

The interior minister stressed: We have not had any kind of incident in Tehran or any of the municipalities since the football incident on 27 Bahman [16 February].

The interior minister asked, if there had been the slightest incident after that Friday, would it have been reasonable to hold the football games between the Iranian and Soviet teams immediately the next Sunday and Tuesday, and then the championship games the next Friday for the Tehran clubs?

The interior minister said: World imperialism is trying to diminish the grandeur of the 22 Bahman [11 February] demonstrations by influencing the climate of opinion, otherwise, they themselves know very well that there is nothing.

Mr. Nuri said: In the last 10 days we have all tried to stop the demonstrations by the Hezbollah brothers in the various parks and streets of Tehran, and we have done this in the framework of the regulations that prevail in the country.

Yazdi Says Economic 'Terrorists' Face Execution

LD1603112190 Tehran IRNA in English 0959 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., Mar. 16, IRNA—The judicial body will confront economic terrorists and in doing so may even execute them, head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said here today.

Speaking to a group of 'ulema of the Qom theological school Ayatollah Yazdi said the judicial power will take decisive and intensive measures against the saboteurs of the country's economy even in the government organisations.

Ayatollah Yazdi said the decision to execute economic terrorists would depend on Majles approval.

President Condemns Profiteering, Urges Fairness

LD1303105690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] On the eve of the auspicious anniversary of the savior of humanity, His Holiness Hojjat Ibn-Hasan 'Askari, may God hasten his noble advent, Commerce Minister Vahaji, accompanied by the deputies, advisers, officials and director generals of the country's commercial sector, met President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

Expressing his regret at the existing inequitable distribution of goods and about issues related to trade and the commercial environment, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The reform of the commercial environment is a major and significant responsibility which has been placed on your shoulders and on ours. You should act to ensure the Commerce Ministry's presence in the form of a chain linking development and economic issues, thus expediting the country's affairs.

Continuing his remarks, the president elaborated on the undesirable conditions prevailing in the commercial environment—the rise in black marketeering and illicit activities in the country—attributing the main reason behind the creation of such unjust and unfair conditions to shortages and an imbalance between demand and supply. He remarked: The weapons used in the campaign against this phenomenon have not worked in practice, failing to fulfill our aims in tying the hands of economic parasites. Thus, in order to create equilibrium in the market and promote the fair distribution of goods, the government hs designed a policy aimed at bringing about demand and supply equilibrium by increasing output in industrial, agricultural, and other production sectors, granting permission for the import of essential goods using free-rate foreign exchange, the provision of basic and essential goods purchased at the government-rate foreign exchange, and the distribution of goods in the form of rationing [be sorat-e sahmiye] for an acceptable period.

The president then referred to those elements which perpetrate profiteering and disorder in the government's economic policy, saying: These culprits are those who under past conditions and in the climate of those same government policies and controls, were able to exploit the plight of goods shortages to accumulate wealth by hoarding, black marketeering, and other base and inhuman activities, and today they employ that illicit wealth toward fulfilling their more corrupt aims. He added: it is only natural that under the same conditions, honest and upright individuals were content with limited incomes, and did not become involved in corruption. Consequently, today, part of the cash flow is in the hands of the worst and most depraved individuals who at the time when our self-sacrificing nation were shedding their blood for Islam and the revolution, allowed themselves to suck their blood inside the cities.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued by remarking on the decisive government campaign against hoarding. He said: We have imposed the strictest of laws against hoarding, and the most severe ones for fraud and overpricing. The revolution's courts are carrying out their tasks diligently. In this connection, you, as directors, are expected to appraise other factors, confronting them severely. If the Commerce Ministry takes a severe line, entering the field with plans and projects, then our success will be certain. However, all these will only be effective in a healthy atmosphere and a sound economic climate.

Continuing his speech, the president reiterated support for domestic contractors and experts in the implementation of the major industrial and development plans and projects. He said: At the moment we have some major plans under way, 500 billion tomans of which have been expended on semicompleted plans—plans which, if completed and used, would have inundated the country with required goods. Therefore, the Commerce Ministry officials should be extremely diligent, committed, and sympathetic.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that the government has shown its support through the sale of foreign exchange to industries and production centers. He said: At present the conditions are such that there are no factories unable to obtain foreign exchange, and we, for our part, have given our approve. They can now take initiatives, and the government will be supportive to this end.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president referred to the government's recent policy on the allocation of foreign exchange for the import of stable goods; hence the return of capital to the country. He said: The result of this policy, according to the commerce minister's report, is that up to now the private sector has deposited the sum of $2 billion toward registering their orders which they will import with their own foreign exchange without recourse to government-rate foreign exchange. Hitherto, around $800 million worth of goods have entered the country through imports without the transfer of foreign exchange. The response to that policy has been positive and is growing, and that is without taking into account those goods which have been brought into the country via the free by passengers, or through other means. The president added: This indicates that under present conditions, contrary to the past, the flow of money and capital into the country is in circulation, and the capital which had been drained from the country has found its way back in.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated that the overall result of this economic policy is that any factory wishing to produce today, can obtain sufficient foreign exchange at government, export, or competative rates, and whoever wishes to legally import essential and permitted goods can purchase foreign exchange.

President Urges Support for Domestic Resources

LD1303192890 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani laid weight on backing domestic contractors and specialists here Monday in a meeting with Minister of Commerce 'Abd-al-Hoseyn Vahaji and officials of the ministry. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said many major plans are under way which once accomplished, people's necessities will be met from domestic resources and urged the ministry's officials to undertake serious efforts in this respect.

Adverting to government's policy of selling of hard currency to factories and production units, the president reiterated plants throughout the country can receive foreign currency and are supported by the government. The president added that the fact that the private sector has so far ordered some dlrs. two billion worth of goods, as reported by the commerce minister, is the outcome of government's policies on foreign currency. The private sector, he added, is to import goods without receiving foreign currency from the government. Some dlrs. 800 million worth of goods have so far been imported through "importing with transfer of no foreign currency abroad" policy.

"Capital and money are being funnelled back into the country from abroad," President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said adding, "The capital taken out of Iran have found their ways back into the country."

Ministers Address Seminar on Five-Year Plan

LD2103039690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The first seminar on heavy industries in the Five-Year Plan opened at Tehran University's 'Allameh Amini Hall this morning, with a speech by Heavy Industries Minister Nejad-Hoseynyan.

According to our correspondent's report during the seminar, which was attended by Mr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, the head of the Majles' Plan and Budget Committee, and managers of various heavy industries' sectors, the heavy industries minister described the aims of the seminar. He said: To solve our industrial problems we have no alternative but to establish constant contact with managers and experts in the heavy industries' sector. This should be done seriously. [passage omitted]

Later in the seminar, Mr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, said that the tax laws would be amended to improve production. He said: The gross domestic product should rise by eight percent in the first Five-Year Plan. A 27,000 billion rial investment, equivalent to an annual investment of 5,500 billion rials, will be required to achieve that target. He added that 497 billion rials will be invested in industries each year. [passage omitted]

Bank Governor Announces Production Incentives

LD1203230190 Tehran IRNA in English 1146 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 12 IRNA—A senior economic official Monday announced that the government is ready to increase production and industrial units' credits as much as 100 percent in order to enable them to gain hard currency.

Governor of Bank Markazi (Central Bank) Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli added that in this connection, factories which produced high-quality products and registered constant increases in their production would be awarded cash prizes in Iranian and foreign currencies.

He noted that in the past, billions of dollars had been invested in Iranian industries but production units were still in need of currency, adding that Iran's economy was still dependent on oil revenues.

Adeli, speaking on the second-day of a seminar on heavy industries, said the country was suffering from a surplus liquidity which the government intended to reduce and thus bring the budget deficit to zero during the five-year development plan.

To this end, he noted, investment in private sector should be encouraged and added that the government had increased credits for industry and agriculture sectors by 30 percent.

Ahmad Khomeyni Calls For 'Sound' Economy

LD1503111190 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said that the Shah's downfall and birth of the Islamic system in Iran would never have taken place if it was not for the people's "profound love" for his late father Imam Khomeyni who ushered in the Islamic revolution.

Addressing a group of commerce ministry officials Tuesday, Hoj. Khomeyni dwelt on the wide-scale support the Islamic Republic enjoys, and said "if we exclude the popularity of our islamic system, we have nothing to say."

"Our revolution will be victorious only when we draw sound economic lines which guarantee the interests of the deprived people," he said adding "We should strive for a sound economic order, ignore slogans and take steps for the have nots."

The other issue which the founder of the Islamic Republic insisted on is liberty, said the Hojjat ol-Eslam. Of course, he noted, liberty in Islam has its own defined social framework and is not the absolute degeneration practiced elsewhere. "People should be able to express themselves and such an open environment will lead to a blooming of thought," he added.

Ahmad Khomeyni also lashed out against the deceptive culture of flattery and sycophancy and emphasised the shunning of these ugly traits "because, flattery is against values." The genuine Islam which the late imam advocated is free of hypocrisy, deception and fraud, he said underlining that the culture of the revolution should be safeguarded.

Ahmad Khomeyni Meets With Police Force Group

LD1303220190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Commanders and staff from the police force's Politico-Ideological Department, together with the representative of the supreme jurisconsult in the police, visited Hoseyniyeh Jamaran [Khomeyni's former residence] and met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

In the meeting, Ahmad Khomeyni paid tribute to the services and efforts of the staff of the Politico-Ideological Department and the commanders and personnel of the police during the course of the eight years of sacred defense and during the period of confrontation against smugglers and other sources of corruption. He further described the characteristics of pure Muhammadan Islam and those of American Islam from the viewpoint of Imam Khomeyni—may God accept him to His paradise. He said:

The American Islam, as defined by the imam, is the Islam of reactionaries and the psuedopious. It is the Islam of capitalists and has no use or identity, and throughout the history of Islam it has always stood against pure Muhammadan Islam. He then considered the debacle of the enemies' conspiracies as well as the counterrevolutionaries becoming discredited in various dimensions, as resulting from the extensive popular support for the sacred system of Islamic republic. He added: Today America and other powers have understood that so far as the people support this system, they can not harm this revolution. We must stand firm against them and defend the principle of neither East nor West as one of the imam's most important memorials.

In that meeting, Mr. Ashtiyani, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult in the police, described the activities of the force in various parts of the country.

'Text' of Clergy Association's Statement

NC1503163490 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 20 Feb 90 p 2

['Text' of a statement issued by the Tehran Militant Clergy Association on the occasion of 21 February, the Day of Clericism and Sacred Defense, and the anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree to the clergymen]

[Text] The struggles by the committed and combatant clergymen form a bright and outstanding chapter in the history of the Islamic revolution and of the imposed war. From the onset of the movement on 5 June 1963 until the victory of the revolution and in the imposed war's fronts of blood and respect, the serious presence of the clerics and the true followers of the ideas of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his grave be sanctified, have been among the examples inspiring hope for our society and people. On this anniversary of the savage attack by the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime on a passenger plane which led to the martyrdom of some of the best friends of the imam and of the revolution—a day that has been named the day of clericism and of the imposed war—as well as on the eve of the first anniversary of the imam's historic message to the clerics and on their place and role in the revolution, the Tehran Military Clergy Association lauds the memory of the clerics martyred in the war, and cherishes the memory of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Fazlollah Mahallati, the imam's representative in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, of martyr Shahcheraghi and of the other martyrs who were killed aboard the passenger plane. The association calls on the people to attend a ceremony on Wednesday, 21 February next to the grave of Imam Khomeyni, may his grave be sanctified.

The Tehran Militant Clergy Association once again points to the dynamic role of its clergy against the enemy and, of course, against all those who—under the label of clericism—have always stayed away from combat and struggle and have inflicted the most pain in the history of the Imam's struggles. So absent have they been that in

his last year's statement he referred to them with bitterness. He explained that when the late Ayatollah Haj Aqa Mostafa, his son, drank water from a jug, the bigots and the scurrilous considered that jug to be ceremonially unclean. He was appalled that until today these people have not taken one step toward the lofty objectives of the Islamic revolution and have become elements that pave the way for American-style Islam.
[Signed] The Tehran Militant Clergy Association

Khamene'i Addresses Armed Forces HQ Personnel

LD1203141790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] His Eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, arrived at the General Staff Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces today. While giving the necessary guidelines, he explained the chief duties and missions of this military body. In this ceremony, which was staged on the parade square of the General Staff Command Headquarters and attended by all the personnel of the headquarters, the leader was honored on his arrival with a parade. A joint session of the heads and managers of the different sections of the headquarters was then convened in the presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. In the course of this, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, describing the chief missions of the headquarters, graciously said:

The Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces has been formed with the aim of establishing coordination between the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] as two combat and military organizations, and also with the aim of preserving the rights of each of these organizations bearing in mind the rights of the other. Thus, these two organizations, which each have their own special missions, are dutybound to coordinate with the policy set down by this headquarters.

The commander in chief termed the general and total direction given by the Command Headquarters to the Armed Forces as an important duty of the headquarters, and while referring to the very prominent characteristics of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena, emphasized the necessity of preparing the headquarters to move in the direction of long-term training, organizational, and operational projects for the Armed Forces.

The leader of the Islamic revolution graciously said in another part of his remarks: The revolutionary country of Iran possesses courageous and brave people and its geographical position has an impact on the stability of the whole world. Iran is a land ready for development and construction and enjoys numerous resources and riches, and the system ruling over this country is based on a modern religious ideology. Social justice, human rights, and individual freedoms in Iran are in forms articulated by Islam and this is more progressive than the offerings of the worlds of so-called socialism or democracy. This reality is to be found among some viewpoints, and famous intellectuals and statesmen of the world have regarded the Islamic Republic of Iran in a fully positive light.

His Eminence the Ayatollah Khamene'i termed all the personnel based in the General Staff Command as military elements. At the end of his speech, while presenting a basij uniform to Dr Firuzabadi, the chief of the headquarters, he graciously said: The objective of providing uniforms for the basij does not in any way mean the formation of a third combat organization opposite the Army and the IRGC; rather, in this way, we would be honoring the actions of any civilian undertaking the specific duties of a military person; and we intend to pay special attention to this.

Before these guidelines were given by the eminent leader, the chief of the headquarters, in the course of some brief remarks, described some of the priorities of the headquarters as being policy formulation and the general direction of the Armed Forces; coordination between the Army and the Guards Corps; preparation of long-term plans; and supervision of the implementation of the plans adopted. He described the work carried out for the formulation of policy and the missions of the General Staff headquarters of the IRGC and the Joint Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also the steps taken with regard to reconstruction and the provision and production of equipment for the Armed forces.

His Eminence the Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief of the armed forces, also attended another session, together with the chief, acting chief, deputies and head of the ideological and political unit of the General Staff Command of the Armed Forces, in the course of which a report on the performance of the headquarters, from the start of its formation up to the present was read out to his eminence, the leader. Details of the address of the leader of the Islamic revolution will be broadcast at the end of this news bulletin.

Qasr-e Shirin Seminar Receives President's Message

LD1003135190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Report by unidentified correspondent from Central News Unit, Bakhtaran]

[Excerpts] The seminar on the reconstruction of Qasr-e Shirin opened in Bakhtaran's town hall this morning with the reading of the President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message.

In the president's message which was read out by Bakhtaran Governor Niko'i, reference was made to the poisonous propaganda wave of the imperialist media encompassing the cries of deprivation of those beings who have risen in protest, the general resurgence of the Islamic youth in defending their beliefs and tenets, and their struggles against the enemy's obstructionism for the

sake of attaining a lasting peace in the region. The Islamic Iran, by relying on its resistant power and inspiration drawn from the peace-seeking spirit of the Islamic revolution, is determined to continue the reconstruction and renovation work of the country's war-stricken regions it had already started, and employ all its resources toward repairing all the damage.

The honorable and resistant inhabitants of Qasr-e Shirin and the other war-stricken areas of the region whose homes were for years occupied and trampled upon by the Ba'thist aggressors, are worthy of every care and consideration given by the Islamic Republic's government officials. As a result the government considers itself dutybound to do its utmost in reconstructing and developing the Qasr-e Shirin region and the rest of the war-stricken areas burned by the oppressive fires of the war-mongerers.

Elsewhere in the speech, our country's president reiterated the need for popular participation in the reconstruction of the war-stricken towns. He called on all the officials in charge of reconstruction and renovation projects to employ all existing resources and capabilities toward the implementation of that significant and humanitarian task which is of historical importance and to the future benefit of the country. [passage omitted]

The seminar on the reconstruction of Qasr-e Shirin will continue for two days, during which the experts, researchers, and analysts participating in that seminar will read their articles, deliver speeches, and voice their opinions in terms of finding suitable solutions to the reconstruction of Qasr-e Shrin and the welfare of its migrants.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets University Students

NC1403193390 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met with a group of Iranian university students this morning. He told them that the call of Muhammad's true Islam is reverberating throughout the world today. He noted that the feeble foundations of Marxism and Communism which are based on atheism have led to their collapse. His eminence described the Western arrogant world as hollow. He said that Islamic rule in Iran is more logical than any other rule in the world and added: In Iran we possess an atmosphere that is one of the most liberal among the various human societies.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: We are defending liberties with great satisfaction because it is our duty. We denounce the unjust and condemn those who wreak injustice and repression on the peoples of the Islamic countries.

The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran concluded his remarks by commending the role which Iranian universities play and said: All our univeristies today serve the policy of monotheism. They are also among the centers which defend and maintain the progress of the Islamic revolution.

*Specialists Repair War-Damaged Falcon Aircraft

90OI0202A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] For the first time in the history of the nation's aircraft industry, a Falcon aircraft, which was 18 percent destroyed due to an accident at the front fuselage, was rebuilt and prepared for flight by Iranian engineers. This aircraft, whose reconstruction cost the nation $1.1 million in foreign exchange, recently successfully completed its first official flight from Bakhtaran to Tehran.

KEYHAN was told of this in an interview with Engineer 'Ali 'Abedzadeh, acting director of the Aseman Aircraft Company.

He explained the details of the 11-passenger Falcon belonging to the Air Force, which was damaged about two years ago at the Bakhtaran airport. He said: The engineers and specialists who inspected the aircraft at that time believed that it could not be repaired in country and that help would have to be obtained from the French Falcon Service Company (manufacturer of the aircraft). Accordingly, a description of the damage along with photographs were sent to this company's officials, but for unreasonable reasons they were not willing to repair the aircraft in Iran, and announced that the aircraft would have to be brought to France as a condition of its repair.

He added: After Iran and France failed to reach agreement, about nine months ago, with the help of God, the Aseman Company's engineers and specialists began rebuilding the aircraft.

During this period, a number of the needed fuselage parts were rebuilt. Some of them which could not be economically built domestically were procured abroad. Finally, after 10,000 man-hours of specialist work and the expenditure of more than $250,000 in foreign exchange, the damaged aircraft was rebuilt and prepared for flight.

Continuing his remarks, Engineer 'Ali 'Abedzadeh said that under the Five-Year Plan $150 million in foreign exchange was allocated to this company. He said: Under this Five-Year Plan about four 100-passenger aircraft will be purchased, and the same number of 20- to 35-passenger aircraft will be purchased. We are now negotiating with the aircraft manufacturers.

He then noted that the Aseman Aircraft Company was formed after the triumph of the Islamic revolution through the consolidation of four companies, Hur Aseman, Air Service, Air Taxi, and Pars Air. He added: This company now has 23 small and large five-to-85-passenger aircraft. He said:

Most of this company's passenger transportation is done with an 85-passenger F-28 and a 44-passenger F-27.

About 450,000 persons are flown every year by the aircraft of the Aseman Aircraft Company, with a total seating capacity of more than 215 seats. The average flight times are seven hours and 15 minutes per day for the F-28 and about seven hours per day for the F-27, and this amount of flight time is unmatched in the world.

Listing the Aseman Company's other activities, he cited services to various government organizations and the repair and maintenance of military and police aircraft. He noted: Currently all of the maintenance lines for about 60 of the nation's aircraft (with the exception of two F-28's) are handled by this company's technical and specialist teams, and we have acquired most of these capabilities since the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

In conclusion he mentioned the company's profits, which are about 30 million tomans annually. He said: This company has potential resources in its specialist and experienced personnel as well as its advanced equipment and machinery. The only way to utilize these resources is for the government to buy aircraft, and we hope to provide air service to other parts of the country when they are procured.

Radio, TV Chief Speaks on News Reporting

LD1003221290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] During a meeting with managers of news bureaus of Voice and Vision centers in the provinces, Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, chief of the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, described the sensitive position and the importance of the Voice and Vision, especially the role of news, in enhancing and directing opinions and ideas, and outlining the society's general policy. He stressed the importance of creating suitable incentives, particularly in the country's reconstruction.

He described speed, impartiality, trustworthiness, honesty, and variety in news reporting as effective factors in drawing the attention of the recepients. He said: An item of news is not purely a political phenomenon; it is a comprehensive entity which can save society from viewing issues only from one angle, and can prevent the occurrence of unrest.

New Satellite TV Stations in Azerbaijan, Ilam

LD1603095190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] On the occasion of the happy birthday anniversary of the one and only harbinger of justice in the world, the holy Mahdi—may God hasten his advent—five satellite stations bringing under television coverage remote and mountainous regions in western Azarbaijan have reached operational stage thanks to the efforts of the Voice and Vision Transmitter Unit of the Islamic Republic of Iran-Urmiyyeh Center.

According to a Central News Unit report, out of the five mentioned stations, two units have been installed in Takab and three other units in Sardasht, Piranshahr, and the Siyahbaz region of Salmas. According to the Central News Unit, the center of the deprived Bashagard district, too, came under the nationwide network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran last night. Inhabitants of the Angahran, center of the Bashagard district, and the villages around it will be able to receive the programs of Network One of the Vision of the Islamic Republic on Channel 6. Based on this report, all the installation and operational works of this television transmitter were carried out by the experts and specialists of the Repair and Maintenance of TV Transmitters and FM Unit of the Voice and Vision of the Persian Gulf Center.

The rural district of Mishkhar in the wards of the central district of Ilam also is benefitting from the use of a television satellite station, having fallen under the coverage of Network One of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to the Central News Unit, with this 10-watt television station becoming operational—through the Repair and Maintenance of TV Transmitters and FM Unit of the Voice and Vision of Ilam Center—12,000 inhabitants in 18 villages of this rural district now can receive the programs of Network 1 of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Channel 5.

Reports on Proceedings of Majles Sessions

* 30 Jan Session

90OI0167A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Jan 90 p 10

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Division: The open session of the Majles yesterday was held with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian presiding. Following the recitation of verses from the Koran, Messrs. Sahrifzadeh, the representative of Piranshahr; and Gharibani, the representative of Ardabil; Dr. Sheybani, the representative of Tehran; and Mr. 'Ali Karam Mohammadian, the representative of Ilam, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the memos of the representatives to the executive officials of the country were read and the Majles went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was a report on Branch 12, concerning the credentials of Mr. Mahmud Jamali from the Kashan electoral district, which, due to the protest by a number of representatives, was referred to the investigating committee.

The second item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions of the bill amending some of the regulations concerning the salary base for tenured faculty, which was ratified.

The third item on the agenda was a report on the first round of discussions on the legislative proposal to add one note to Article 106 of the internal bylaws of the Majles, which was postponed to the next session.

Below, you will read the pre-agenda speeches, the memos of the representatives, and the details of the discussions.

Qader Sharifzadeh, Representative of Piranshahr

The first speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Qader Sharifzadeh, from the Piranshahr and Sardasht electoral district, who sent greetings to the pure soul of the imam and congratulated the leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and the people on the 11th anniversary of the victory of the revolution.

He added: Obviously, everyone is aware that the victory and strengthening of the regime stem from two basic factors, the unmatched leadership of the imam and the self-sacrifice, commitment, religiosity, struggle, and resistance of the Islamic nation, preserving the unity of the word and the unconditional obedience to his honor's decrees. Hence, at the dawn of the 11th spring of freedom and after the end of the imposed war, in gratitude for all the heroism, martyrdom, and resistance that has forced the oppressed nations of the world to rise up against the oppressors, and considering the present political stability, power, and greatness of Islam on the international scene and the expression of helplessness of all satanic powers before the power of Islam, and noting the sense of responsibility of the politicians of the Islamic Republic, who are men of learning, morality, politics, and holy war, especially considering the personality of the president and his able and powerful Cabinet, which has raised the public's expectations, and noting that our Muslim people are quite aware that the present conditions especially have changed and the country is at the beginning of a new chapter and requires rapid and decisive actions in various dimensions to turn the wheels of the system, no one expects anything beyond our resources and capabilities.

Then, referring to the issue of management, the speaker said: Considering the sensitive role of management, which is one of the important factors in the progress of every nation, and that naturally after every revolution, a crisis of management occurs, particularly in the middle and lower levels, and that management not based on commitment, specialization, and popular support spreads a sense of disinterest, indifference, and discontent among others and certainly will compromise the success of the programs, in order to strengthen the relations between the government and the people and move towards progress on all levels, I call the attention of the serving government to the issue that dismissals and appointments which are not in observance of proper standards and merely on the basis of personal contacts, vested interests, and factions will cause disunity and discontent and create a gap in the unity of the people. In order to preserve unity, in appointments of officials the legitimate interests and wishes of the people must categorically be taken into consideration, and the views of their representatives in appointing individuals who serve the regime and are impartial in political issues must be taken into consideration in order to achieve the objectives of the imam.

In continuation, he pointed out: Given the economic and cultural level of the electoral district, I warn the honorable officials of the Islamic Republic, who are protectors of the fruits of the revolution, in working towards economic and cultural blossoming and implementing the rules of Islam and the revolution, to make use of competent, revolutionary expert forces in the two areas of Piranshahr and Sardasht and from now on to prevent the appointment of the forces who have been defeated, especially those with a questionable history, because it is unacceptable for those individuals who have refused to serve in the prosperous regions which have no problems and have even committed offenses to be sent as officials to these two regions which have many political and social problems and expect them to be of service. The use of such individuals has escalated the political climate in the area and has caused stagnation and discontent among the majority of the people, because after years of resistance, self-sacrifice, and offering martyrs, wounded, captives, and missing, and suffering huge financial losses as well as homelessness, inflation, shortages, and extreme poverty, the oppressed people of these regions expect that even if mature, sincere, committed, and religious forces are not given simple responsibilities, at least the appointment of those who have been exiled as officials will be prevented.

In conclusion, Mr. Sharifzadeh referred to some of the problems of his constituency and gave reminders to the officials.

'Ali Mohammad Gharibani, Representative of the People of Ardabil

Mr. Gharibani was the second pre-agenda speaker. Referring to the blessed 10 days of Fajr [dawn], he said:

This year, we will hold the 10 days of Fajr celebration at a time when the spirit of God is not among us, and we suffer heart-rending pain at the loss of our imam. This year, we will celebrate the 10 days of Fajr and the explosion of light at a time when the eyes of the oppressive world are on us, watching how we protect the light of Islam. This year, in order to please the great soul of the imam and to demonstrate the power of Islam, we will celebrate the 10 days of Fajr more magnificently than in previous years.

He then added: Unfortunately, along with those who have made a target of the Islamic revolution, some writers, by writing in the press of matters which disunite and questioning the officials and our beloved leaders, have had the nerve to attack the sacred position of the imam, one day in a poem, of which I have a copy here, and another day in the form of an article. One day they distort the statements of the imam and another day attack the lord of the pious, 'Ali, and the mobilization forces. Here, I find it necessary to thank the honorable representative who offered the proposal to deal decisively and legally with distortions of the statements of the imam. I hope that my representative brothers preserve their unity and sensitivity with regard to those who

attack our Islamic values and deal decisively with those whose pens serve the foreigners by breaking them.

Referring to the virtues of the Majles from the perspective of the imam in connection with the administrative system and the opinions of the people, the speaker said: The honorable president is aware that the lack of attention of related officials at the appropriate time to the government employees, and also the existence of some problems and excessive bureaucracy in some government organizations as well as lack of comprehensive laws appropriate for the regime of the Islamic Republic in creating administrative change, and added to that the worries of the employees in regard to the future, have created the grounds for bureaucratic corruption and the inclination of employees to choose second and third jobs, which consequently will bring about the cynicism and discontent of the people and the employees. The related officials, rather than paying attention to such issues, engage in actions that will later prove to be contrary to the laws or will improperly interpret the laws.

Mr. Gharibani then said: Despite the attachment of Note 51 to the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] national budget law, which was done to prevent uncontrolled increases in the system, unfortunately, we have witnessed uncontrolled increases in extra pay by the council on salaries and wages, especially on the higher levels which can be paid by virtue of the phrase, "if funds are available." In practice, the existence of the attached note mentioned is questioned. In this regard, many protests have reached the Majles. Recently, the base pay has been increased from 2,500 tomans to 3,500 tomans and the maximum from 20,000 tomans to 30,000 tomans. Was the basis for the increase here established in proportion to the poverty and wealth of the employees? On what basis was the difference between the minimum and the maximum, which was previously 17,000 tomans, increased to 26,000 tomans? Were cost of living expenditures taken into consideration in determining the minimum and maximum earnings? Among the examples that show the unfair, discriminatory treatment among the employees is the uncontrolled increase in extra pay for the employees of the administrative and employment agency. For example, a consultant who holds an associate degree in Group Nine is placed with a salary of a little more than 4,000 tomans while his extra pay is 10,250 tomans, whereas a consultant with a bachelor's degree in the ministry in Group 12 receives 7,850 tomans in extra pay.

Referring to the bill amending the retirement regulations, he criticized the dismissal and appointment of officials in some of the ministries and said:

The continuing dismissals and appointments in some of the ministries, including the Ministries of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education; Education; and Economic Affairs and Finance, which have their own special procedures, is worrisome. It is not clear for what offense and with what objective in mind the former governor of the National Bank, who, as we know, is sincere, specialized, and faithful to the revolution and had played a constructive role in the economic affairs of the country, was dismissed and replaced with a person who is relatively inexperienced. For that matter, for what reason and according to which regulations were the directors and officials of education in Tehran dismissed or appointed, such that in the past few days problems have arisen in Tehran? Also, it is proper to pay attention to the incompetence and favored treatment given some of the other officials, including the director of education of Ardabil. I recommend that the officials of all government organizations pay more attention to Islamic values in dismissals and appointments and value the Hezbollah and mobilization forces and the families of the martyrs and others.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the anniversary of the historical message of the imam to the Soviet leader and expressed his sorrow in regard to the unfortunate events in Soviet Azerbaijan.

Dr. 'Abbas Sheybani, Representative of the People of Tehran

The third pre-agenda speaker was Dr. Sheybani, the representative of the people of Tehran, who first referred to the blessed 10 days of Fajr and said:

It is the month of Bahman [21 January-19 February] and reminiscent of the blessed steps of the imam which descended on the eyes of the nation and, like the shirt of Joseph, made the blind eyes see the truth. Even though at this time the revered leader is not among us, we hope that by following his instructions and obeying the revered leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khamene'i, we will have his blessing in following his path. Yesterday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, with his illuminating speech, invited everyone to unite and work to build the country. The great leader also emphasized in his wise speech the speeches of the other brothers and asked not only those present but the entire Islamic nation to take steps to advance the lofty goals of the imam and to pledge unity and, with all of our efforts, to serve the people and give priority to the opinions of the collective. He then said: I ask the workers and farmers to increase production by working harder, so that in addition to producing an ample supply, the prices will decrease. We thank the serving government, which has spent over $1 billion more than the allotted amount to procure agricultural goods so that gradually with the turning of the economic wheels of the country, the conditions of the people will improve. I ask the center for studying prices emphatically to avoid raising prices, even if they think it is proper. I ask Tehran's City Hall to facilitate the actions of those charitable persons who want to do charitable work outside the city and want to build a clinic, a hospital, a school or a library rather than making delays in issuing building permits. The 50-bed Ghiasi Hospital will be next to a charitable clinic by the same name in southwest Tehran. Certain individuals intend to build it. The honorable director of religious endowments and the

honorable mayor should pursue the matter to find out the reason for the delay and to eliminate the problem. In regard to the bill on the salaries of university professors, which has been sent to the representatives, I ask you to pay attention to it. The university professors expressed their gratitude to the Majles for its kindness in the Five-Year Plan and have written an official letter to the Majles and other authorities. What the professors expect is the resources to enable them to make maximum use of their energy for teaching and training the young people of the country. Fortunately, Dr. Habibi, the first deputy to the president, has appointed a committee to study and pursue these issues.

In another part of his speech, in connection with education, he said: Because the issue of education is constantly being discussed, I must say that I myself have been acquainted with the issue of education for a long time and know the problems of educators. From the beginning of the revolution, as others know, even as far as the clothing of children was concerned, martyr Raja'i asked me to pursue the matter, and I spoke with a number of charitable people. I must remind the Ministry of Education to make an effort to have this matter taken care of by 22 Bahman [11 February], which will make it more blessed and fruitful.

In conclusion, Dr. Sheybani emphasized: I request of all of you, not only the representatives but the entire nation, to preserve our unity and to support the leader. What I am saying here is what martyr Beheshti used to repeat often in the Islamic Republican Party council, that the imam wished to unite the Muslims under one flag, that there would be no disunity among us. We should set aside our personal problems and go after constructiveness. During the period of construction, we must work, we cannot make delays. We cannot pursue our own desires. Even if we use all of our energy, it is still not enough.

'Ali Karam Mohammadian, Representative of the People of Ilam

Mr. Mohammadian, the representative of Ilam, was the fourth and final pre-agenda speaker of the Majles yesterday. He began his speech with greetings to the pure spirit of the imam and offered condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the virtuous and pious imam 'Ali al-Naqi.

Referring to the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution and the failed conspiracy of the hijacking of the airplane in the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: Even though with much regret at the dawn of the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution by the agents of global oppression, thanking the Guards Corps, these self-sacrificers who neutralized one of the conspiracies of global oppression and the plot of the hypocrites, I call the attention of the honorable officials to the sensitivity of the situation at this time and propose that most consciously, in the farthest reaches of the country, including the borders, sensitive areas, public places, and inside the cities, the military and law enforcement and intelligence forces be employed appropriately to strongly stifle in its infancy any possible conspiracy by the enemies of Islam. Even though the Hezbollah nation, these loyal supporters of Islam and the Islamic revolution, is actively present on the scene and the people are themselves the able arms of Islam, protecting the revolution and the security of the country by reliance on God and seeking assistance from the directors of the leader and through their own unity to keep them from any harm, as before, it is necessary in these blessed days to be prepared and more watchful of all aspects of our affairs.

In connection with the presence of the people in the revolution celebrations, Mr. Mohammadian emphasized that our people should celebrate these great days and honor the independence and the victory of the revolution.

He added: In connection with the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget bill which is being discussed in the Cabinet, I propose that in implementing the first developmental plan and eliminating deprivation from the backward areas of the country, the necessary funds be allocated to help the oppressed and tribal region and the war-stricken provinces so that, God willing, by eliminating poverty from the country, the grounds for the implementation of social justice will be prepared, and in the decade of reconstruction, we will all join hands, listen to the orders of the leader, and work in unison to build an Islamic, prosperous, and independent Iran.

Statements of Mr. Karrubi

Mr. Karrubi offered his condolences to all Muslims on the martyrdom of Imam Hadi, the 10th bright star of the sky of the imamate, and then spoke in praise of that imam. [passage omitted]

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of the Majles yesterday was a report on Branch 12 regarding the credentials of Mr. Mahmud Jamali, from the electoral district of Kashan.

Report from Branch 12 to the Islamic Consultative Majles:

The credentials of Mr. Mahumud Jamali, from the electoral district of Kashan, which after [word illegible] formalities were turned over to this branch, during the session on Sunday dated 8/11/68 [2 November 1989], were studied and confirmed by a majority of the votes.

The chairman of Branch 12, Mr. Ashrafi-Esfahani.

Then the credentials of Mr. Jamali were discussed in the open session of the Majles, opposed by Messrs. Fazel Hamadan, Fahmi, and another representative. Then the credentials of the above-mentioned were referred to the investigation committee.

The Second Item on the Agenda

The second item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions of the administrative and employment affairs committee in regard to amending some of the regulations concerning the salary base for tenured faculty (teaching, research, working, and retired personnel of the universities and higher education and research institutions of all organizations).

Article 2 of this bill states: From the beginning of Farvardin 1366 [21 March 1987], the index of the charts of the monthly salary base for the faculty (teaching and research) of universities and higher education and research institutions of all organizations will be increased from 400 rials to 900 rials. The difference will be paid from related funds.

Also, Article 3 states: Of all of the earnings of working (teaching and research) faculty in the university and higher education and government institutions, of all organizations, only 10 percent will be deducted as taxes (only in regard to full-time faculty).

The Third Item on the Agenda

The next item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions of the post, telegraph, and energy committees in regard to the establishment of water and sewage companies.

Messrs. Movahhedi-Saveji, Majid Ansari, Eshaq Jahangiri, and Behzadian spoke in opposition to this proposal and Messrs. Sahmi Hesari, Akrami, Ruhaninia, and Khatami in support of it. Following the statements of the chairman of the committee and the minister of energy, the general points of the plan were put to a vote and ratified.

The last item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions of the committee to devise the internal bylaws of the Majles in regard to rejection of the legislative proposal to attach one note to Article 106 of the internal bylaws of the Majles. The examination of this item was postponed to the next session.

Also, according to a report by our parliamentary correspondent, the examination of the bill on the Five-Year Plan, which was returned from the Council of Guardians, will be discussed in the open session of the Majles today.

* 2 Feb Session

90OI0169A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Division: The open session of the Majles was held last Wednesday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding and continued with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemyan presiding. Following recitation of verses from the Koran, Messrs. 'Abdolkarimi, the representative of Natanz; Kazemi, the representative of Khalkhal; and Yunus Mohammadi, the representative of Khorramshahr, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the Majles went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the only item on the agenda was the amendment of some of the notes of the first economic developmental, social, and cultural plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran (returned from the Council of Guardians).

Below, you will read the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers and the details of the discussions.

'Ali 'Abdolkarimi, Representative of Natanz and Qamsar

The first speaker of the open session of the Majles for Wednesday was Mr. 'Abdolkarimi-Natanzi, from the Natanz and Qamsar electoral district, who began his speech with greetings to the pure soul of the imam, wishing success and long life for the revered leader of the revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and offering congratulations on the anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

Referring to the changes in the Eastern bloc, he said: God willing, in the near future, with the awareness of the oppressed, Western oppression and capitalism and its mercenary agents in the region will also meet the sinister fate of the communist East, and the grounds will be prepared for justice in establishing the revolution of his holiness, Mahdi.

Mr. 'Abdolkarimi continued by pointing out the issues that in his opinion will be detrimental and prevent the implementation of the first economic, social, and cultural plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran and added: The administrative organization, as the implemental tool of the plan, is for the most part rusty and worn out, and some of the administration's officials are ill, lethargic, or otherwise unable to move on this huge wheel. The proof is in the incoherent laws, the interference of parallel organizations and, unfortunately, the spread of aristocratic love of luxury and such mistreatment of the makers of the revolution, that is, the oppressed people, without any fear of any court or organization, and ultimately the confusion of the people in the twists and turns of the offices and the hallways of departments and the statements of the clients. To reform the tools for the job, first these obstacles must be removed rapidly and decisively. Of course, a large number of the employees with small salaries are serving the people and defending the revolution and should be regarded in a separate category from others. The agents and remnants of the tyrants must certainly be given up and the important affairs must be entrusted to the Hezbollah, religious, committed, and expert people, whose number is not small.

Stating that the economic terrorists prevent the implementation of social justice, he said: Hoping that some of the individuals who have become rich since the revolution through hoarding, theft, and taking advantage of the names of the foundations, funds, contracting, and so on,

will come and turn our economic wheel so that they gain legitimate profit and the society improves its condition is in vain and futile. Although every one of them makes as much use of government resources as several people, they even evade paying taxes.

He continued: Now that, by the grace of God, with the efforts of our beloved imam and blessed by the divine Islamic revolution, the iron walls of communism have crumbled and the chains of slavery have been untied from the arms and legs of millions of oppressed and deprived people, certainly they shall return to their God-fearing nature and come to the side of the worshippers of God. We know and we see that the dragon of the Vatican from the West and the nonsensical fabrications of Wahabism and the Saudi family have opened their mouths to swallow these newly freed slaves. It is necessary that our numerous propaganda and guidance organizations, with all their scholarly richness and great, rare Islamic capital, with the help of God, hurry to assist the oppressed, take away any kind of opportunity for mischief from the enemies of Islam and fill the existing void.

In a reminder to the Voice and Vision, the speaker said: What do you hope to achieve by showing people with ties on, manifestations of the tyrant, and holding interviews that insult what the people hold sacred, such as you broadcast a few days ago on the Good Morning program? First of all, do not forget to announce the warnings and threats of the imam during the broadcast of the interview insulting her holiness Zahra. Secondly, do not further upset those religious, Hezbollah people who took back this system from the tyrant and put it at your disposal.

Concerning the old British colonialism, the representative of Natanz said: They have gained nothing by putting the Muslim students on trial on the anniversary of the imam's decree concerning Salman Rushdie; they only expedite the awakening of the people.

In conclusion, Mr. 'Abdolkarimi asked the people of his constituency to continue to support Ayatollah Khanene'i, the revered leader of the revolution, in the same manner that they followed the imam in defending Islam and the revolution.

Motahhar Kazemi, Representative of the People of Khalkhal

Mr. Kazemi, the representative of the people of Khalkhal, was the second pre-agenda speaker. He first referred to the blessed 10 days of Fajr [dawn] and said:

We honor the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the blessed 10 days of Fajr. While the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not physically among us, his lofty and blessed spirit helps, supervises, and guides this ship of rescue of the Islamic world and the oppressed on its way through the able hands of his sincere, alert, and intelligent student, Ayatollah Khamene'i, with the same goals and values. During these divine days, he has witnessed the great movement and change in human history. According to the enemies of this Islamic revolution, blessed by a leader like the imam, and the Koranic and Islamic ideology and the iron will of the brave nation of Iran, an earthquake occurred, and according to the Koran it was an earthquake that destroyed the warp and weft of dictatorship forever, buried the infernal power of monarchical rule in the depth of wells, created an earthquake in the large colonialist palaces, destroyed the foundation of the materialistic treaties of Warsaw and others, broke the talisman of the power and the mythological monsters and—as that celestial man, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, said to the apparently unbreakable United States that the United States cannot do anything and communism should be sought in museums—placed the decadent dialectical principles in the trash bin of history for others in the world to take notice. Every day, we witness the effects of that great earthquake. Every day, we witness the crumbling of the high, decayed poles of power in the world. We are certain that global oppression has established the foundations of its life and movement contrary to the current movement of the natural world and contrary to human nature. Whether they want it or not, they will be gone, but the rapid disintegration of the materialist powers is certainly the result of the whispers that occurred during the 10 days of Fajr.

He then added: If in the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution we look at our situation and review our friends and enemies, we shall see that the United States has been our greatest enemy and has committed the most significant betrayal and crime against our regime and nation. On this basis, most of our hatred is directed towards the United States and most of our slogans during the 10 days of Fajr will consist of "Death to America." On the second level, inside the country we have suffered the most blows from internal chaos and conflicts. We must increase unity with all of our efforts.

Expressing thanks for the wise advice of the leader of the Islamic revolution, he referred to the unfortunate events in Soviet Azarbaijan and said: Mr. Gorbachev must note that in terms of the relations between the two neighbors, carrying out and completing treaties and good neighborliness, there are no problems; but Mr. Gorbachev must not forget that the people relied on his distinguishing characteristics, which are boldness, courage, initiative, and analysis. What is worrisome is that after destroying the building of communism, he might construct the foundation of his building on the shaky discrimination of capitalism, as he has discriminated between the Eastern European race and the Azerbaijani Muslims. Hence, he gives freedom to one, and to the other he sends tanks. He speaks of Islamic fundamentalism as the Westerners do and sympathizes with one group in order to please the West. Certainly giving equal freedom to the Muslims of Azerbaijan and valuing them will greater strengthen the relations between the two countries and is in the interest of the Soviet Union. The relationship between the Muslims in Azerbaijan and Iran and vise versa is like that of Muslims in other countries of the

world. We cannot hear the cry of "Oh Muslims" and fail to show an Islamic reaction. If we had heard the innocent cries of the Muslims as we hear it from around the world, we would have shown more reaction. But at the present, we consider it our duty to weep blood when we hear the cries of these dear ones and, following the statements of our beloved imam who said, Blood is mightier than the sword, await the victory of Islam and Muslims.

In another part of his speech, in connection with the oppressed stratum of the society, Mr. Kazemi said: Today in our society, there are some who are well-to-do and want for nothing material in their lives. Another group receives assistance from the imam's committee, welfare and such, and have few problems, because before the revolution this group was not helped as much as it is now. They are at least at a level that they can speak about their needs and shortages. But the third group falls between these two groups. It is neither wealthy nor being helped by the charitable organizations. Their situation is sad. They are the employees and salary earners of the lower and middle ranks who have no one to speak to about their problems. Some of them cannot buy the rationed items and goods because they do not have the resources. Now, we must urgently do something about them.

The representative of the people of Khalkhal then referred to the problems of his constituency and said: A few months after the second session of the Majles, I announced that the Khalkhal area is the only city lacking an asphalted road. In this connection, the government and officials took some steps and I thank them for it. But it is not enough. If the government wants to implement the Five-Year Plan by extending the plan to bring the oppressed areas in various aspects up to the level of the developed cities, I beg the honorable president, the government, the Plan and Budget Organization, and the budget committee of the Majles to offer practical solutions to save Khalkhal from this dead end by increasing funds for the roads of Khalkhal.

In conclusion, he made some reminders to the related officials regarding this problem of his constituency.

Yunos Mohammadi, Representative of the People of Khorramshahr

The third and last pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Yunos Mohammadi from Khorramshahr. He said: Our Islamic revolution is the torch bearer and teacher of freedom and liberty in the world. It is attacked by the bloodthirsty bats and the keepers of darkness. But this nation, with its love for Islam and its guiding leader, has tolerated all the military and economic pressures, has stood steadfast, resistant and proud and is now advancing under the leadership of its great leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, to teach and help materialize Islamic justice and equity in the world.

He added: If, God forbid, its love for the leader is diminished one iota and unity turns into disunity or serving Islam and the oppressed begin to think of serving only oneself and one's faction or group, then victories may turn into defeats. But our resistant and alert nation has come out of all the tests proudly and victoriously and has turned the hopes of the enemies to despair. The request of this lowly servant is that this year as well while the sorrow of the loss of the leader presses our hearts like a black cloud, we must be present on the scene stronger and more decisive than ever because the enemies are watching all of our actions under the magnifying glass. Hence, by our vast presence in the ceremonies honoring the blessed 10 days of Fajr, especially the 22 Bahman [11 February] ceremonies, we can strike a strong blow to the mouth of those who speak and compose nonsense.

He said: I request of all the honorable officials and servants of this nation to respond to the generosity of these people with generosity, and with humility to try to solve the unbearable difficulties of these people. Here it is necessary for me to thank the dear leader, the president, and the distinguished Cabinet for appointing Engineer Tula'i as governor general of Khuzestan, which has solved the administrative problems of this oil-rich province.

Congratulating the distinguished people of this province and Engineer Tula'i, the governor of Khuzestan, I find it necessary to make a few reminders: Dear brother, Engineer Tula'i, in the early years of the war, you were first the deputy and then supervisor of the Governor General's Office in Khuzestan, whereby you offered valuable services and have a precise understanding of the deprivation, bravery, resistance, self-sacrifice, and sincerity of all the people of Khuzestan. You are also fully aware of the abundant resources of the province, the special political, military, economic, social, and cultural situation of the province. I hope that by making use of the existing experiences and resources, you will take urgent steps to solve the problems and eliminate the deprivation of the self-sacrificing people of Khuzestan and be the center for all the forces and the people and be an ointment on the wounded hearts of the people of that region. I ask God for your success. Revered leader, now a year and a few months have passed since the resolution was accepted. Please instruct the people of Minu Island, Arvand-Kenar, Arab Khorramshahr, and the east and west of Karun to be returned so that the brave people of that region can start reconstructing their villages. Also, in many areas of Khorramshahr and its villages and the villages of Abadan, there are mines and explosives. So far 10 people have been wounded and three martyred. I request that those who are killed in the war-stricken regions as a result of explosives be considered martyrs.

Now I have a brief statement for the president. I request that the problem be solved as soon as possible by bringing a bill to the Majles. My proposal to the officials and trustees of Khorramshahr is that a committee comprised of the governor, mayor, director of the office of registry and deeds, one judge, and two local trustees be formed to resolve this problem. Mr. President, on a visit that you made to Khuzestan, you saw the miserable

condition of the war victims, especially those war victims who have also been flood victims along the way from Mahshahr to Bandar-e Emam and Ramshir. I presented the report to you orally and in writing concerning the township of Yaser in Omidiyeh. In one area of the township of Yaser, 180 homes were destroyed and five people were killed in the flood, four of whom were children. Unfortunately, so far, no steps have been taken to resolve the problems of the flood victims of Khuzestan. I request that you issue an urgent decree so that the people will not suffer more than they have in the cold of the winter.

The speaker added: Mr. President, now that we are about to ratify the 69 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget, I request that you help in allotting an appropriate budget for the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas of the west of the country, and also an appropriate budget for solving the problems of the refugees of the imposed war and the problems of the Province of Khuzestan, which has carried the brunt of 10 years of war. Now that we live in peace, steps must be taken to solve the problems of the calamities of the refugees of the imposed war, these main victims of the imposed war in particular. I request of the committee on Principle 90 to investigate the case of the refugee victims foundation as soon as possible.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Khorramshahr said: Apparently, tomorrow the aggressive British Government is going to put Mehrdad Kowkabi on trial, and on the day that the decree for the execution of Salman Rushdie was issued by the imam, the British courts will issue his verdict. I warn the aggressive British Government from myself and the honorable representatives of the Majles to stop tormenting the Iranian Muslim students and halt its aggressive policies against the Islamic revolution. I request of the honorable Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the government to deal with this issue decisively.

Details of the Discussions

The only item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the bill for the Five-Year Plan (returned from the Council of Guardians).

Amendments of the Committee to Adhere to the Views of the Council of Guardians

Amendment to Note 11: In order to make it possible for people to have access to affordable housing and to create the grounds for building sufficient rental housing, the government shall be responsible for placing the necessary legal facilities and funds at the disposal of appropriate specialized and trade organizations, which are created in the form of public and cooperative companies.

The above amendment was ratified by the representatives.

Amendments were made to Notes 12, 15, 22, and 49 by adding the following phrase:

"From funds which are allocated in the annual budget for this purpose."

The above amendment was ratified by the representatives.

Amendment to Note 17: Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji proposed that the term "Ministry of Justice" be replaced with "the chief of the judicial branch."

This proposal was ratified.

Amendment to Note 21: In order to adhere to the views of the Council of Guardians, the Plan and Budget Committee proposed the omission of Note 21, which was opposed by the representatives. Then Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji proposed that the note be changed in the following manner.

"The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran shall be permitted to present and sell its products and artistic work inside and outside the country with the approval of the representative of the Vali-ye Faqih [jurisconsult vice regency] (if such exists) without obtaining permission."

It is worthy of note that the above amendment was ratified by the representatives, but since it does not yet adhere to the views of the Council of Guardians, it was returned to the Majles. This time, it was discussed with an omission proposal by Mr. Majid Ansari. Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji spoke in opposition to the omission and Mr. Kamel Kheyrkhah in support of it. Then, after the spokesman of the committee made his statements, the proposal to omit Note 21 was put to a vote and was ratified.

Amendment to Note 27: In granting any kind of permit or trade certificate to applicants for production, service, and trade businesses in all economic sectors, priority will be given to those who have received special technical and professional training at the needed levels.

Article 38: Amending a phrase that was mentioned in the corrected text, which was ratified.

The economic council is in charge of determining the networks allowed to distribute on wholesale and retail levels such that the circulation of goods on each level is done only by one distribution intermediary. In exceptional cases, the appointment of more than one intermediary on each level mentioned is the responsibility of the economic council.

The above-mentioned amendment was put to a vote and ratified.

In Note 45, the word "vehicle" was omitted.

The above amendment was ratified by the representatives.

Note 47 was amended as follows.

"The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education are permitted in the course of the implementation of the plan to invite non-Iranian faculty from other countries, giving priority to Muslims. The fields of study and the number of needed individuals will be determined in the annual budget."

The amendment was ratified.

In Note 49, this phrase was added: "Universities and higher education and research institutions in the course of the plan may."

This amendment was ratified.

And the number of needed individuals will be determined in the annual budget.

This amendment was put to a vote and ratified.

Note 51:

In regard to this note, Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji proposed that it be omitted, but this was opposed by the Majles. Then the original version of Note 51 remained as before.

This Note states: "In order to prevent the decrease in agricultural production, from the date of the ratification of this law, any kind of division and conversion of agricultural or arable lands and orchards for non-agricultural uses shall be prohibited. The implemental bylaws of this law will be prepared within a period of three months by the Ministry of Agriculture and ratified by the Cabinet."

Note 54: Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji proposed the omission of Note 54, and it was ratified by the representatives.

Note 54 previously stated: "The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs shall be responsible for expanding the employment services centers for the employment-creating plans and projects and increasing their productivity in order to respond to the needs."

In Part One, Division "B," Paragraph Four, Section 26 (of objectives), the words "and economizing" were inserted.

The amendment was ratified. The next proposal was the amendment of a phrase as follows: "Special Attention to the education of the self-sacrificers, combatants, and the children of the families of martyrs, missing prisoners, and freed prisoners."

The amendment was ratified.

The next proposal was Paragraph "B" of Line eight of the general policies of the "H" category. The term "government" was added in the framework of the export and import law.

This amendment was ratified.

The next session of the Majles will be held on Tuesday, 24 Bahman [13 February].

* 13 Feb Session

90OI0173A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Feb 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Bureau: The open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemyan. In this session, Messrs. Dr. Farzad and Rahbari-Amlashi spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Also, Mr. Karrubi made a speech and then the Majles began its session.

Following is the text of the pre-agenda speeches and details of the discussions:

'Alireza Farzad, Representative of the people of Taft

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. 'Alireza Farzad, representative of the people of Baft [as published]. In the beginning of his speech, he offered his greetings to the grand spirit of Imam Khomeyni and the sacred spirits of the martyrs. He wished the dear leader of the revolution, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, a long life. He also congratulated the brave people of Iran on the occasion of the twelfth anniversary of the spring of freedom and thanked them for their participation is the Decade of Dawn celebrations and, particularly, for their massive participation in the great political and economic maneuver of 22 Bahman [11 February] demonstrations.

He added: This was a renewed covenant with the path and the thoughts of the Imam and an approval of the 57 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] revolution, its values, and slogans. This was an emphasis on all the principals that the Imam, as the concerned father of the revolution, had designed as principals of the revolution. The principal of national independence, the undeniable principal of "neither East, nor West", the principal of individual acceptance of responsibility for the country, the interest of Moslems and the deprived and the downtrodden of the world and presence on the scene. The principal of freedom, individual and social justice, and implementation of Islamic justice, the principal of backing the poor and the universality of the nation. Preparation of the grounds for nurturing the talents of this class and their dominance, the principal of despising the rich and the painless gold-diggers, the principal of defending the Hezbollah. We hail you victorious nation and thank you humbly.

From this position, I give notice to the executive officials of the country and those concerned to feel more responsible toward the people who have been so vigilant, steadfast, and punctual in regard to the interests of the revolution and Islam and try to resolve their problems, particularly the back-breaking high prices which exert pressure on this sincere sector of the society. Regretfully, I must say that a part of the problems resulting from high prices and the related difficulties can be attributed to the uncalculated policies set by the officials.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the great values and Godly blessings of the revolution, which was founded by the late Imam for an Islamic confrontation with heresy and injustice in the world, and said: I remind the government officials that a requirement for continuity and success of the revolution is its continued activity in the foxholes and on the front lines. We would like the government to be more active in regard to Islamic revolutionary moves in Turkey, Kashmir, and Soviet Azarbaijan, and to study the possibility of cutting economic ties with England.

He then added: Israel, the disgraced usurper, after all its conspiracies came to dead ends, has recently planned a program called "the delivery." According to this plan, over one million American and European Jews will be settled in areas populated by Moslems, such as Jerusalem and the West Bank of the Jordan River. This will result in the serious danger of dislocating the Moslem population in the region. Certainly the Palestinian combatants and world Moslems will not allow the implementation of such conspiracies, and the government of the Islamic Republic and the people of Iran will be steadfast with all their might. Arab countries that claim to support Palestine and Arabism are also required to take serious action.

Mr. Farzad then referred to the anniversary of the historic decree of the late Imam for the execution of the treacherous Salman Rushdie and added: The alertness and wisdom of the revolution's leader, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, to emphasize the validity of the historic decree of the late leader of the revolution reiterates the uncompromising posture of the Islamic revolution and we thank the exalted leadership profusely for this.

He continued: I thank the the Combatant Clergy Society [Jame-eh Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez] for their well composed and thoughtful statement, issued on the occasion of the anniversary of the revolution, which expressed the fundamental lines of the revolution.

He also added: I thank His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Ahmad Khomeyni, the son and memento of His Holiness the late Imam, for his speech on 12 Bahman [1 February] at the grave site of his great father. What more can be expected of him, the true son of that great leader, who has always safeguarded the uncompromising principals and values set forth for the revolution by His Holiness the late Imam.

The speaker then referred to the results of the elections which took place two months ago and said: Although during this period the opportunity for several recalls have risen, it is regretful that the election's supervisory and executive officials have not given any explanations for the causes of the delays in announcing the results and, also, the contradictions between the first results and the ones announced later. They will certainly be responsible for the negative impressions which are going to be left in the minds of the people. Also, announcing the results was not the responsibility of the Council of Guardians because this is an executive matter.

He emphasized: In this decade of freedom, we give our warmest praise and heartfelt greetings to the martyrs of the revolution, the disabled, POW's, the MIA's and their families. We are thankful for their efforts for nurturing the revolution and particularly for the management of the country by the sincere government of His Excellency Engineer Musavi during the past 11 years, which bore the brunt of the difficulties of the years of war while upholding the principals of the revolution.

The representative of the people of Taft, while thanking the government of the respected president, His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, pointed out: Some of the decisions, policies, changes, deputy positions, and director positions in the ministries and across the country are not even in line with the slogans of work and service. The executive system of the country has fallen into the hands of some incompetent, gutless and, in some instances, non-revolutionary people. The executive branch of the government must have the capacity to accept sincere and constructive criticism and take steps for the country's independence and honor by taking advantage of the best revolutionary forces. A management that gets angry and fires an insider, who offers his sincere and logical criticism aimed at protecting millions of tomans in the iron ore project of Chadermalou, which belongs to the treasury, and fires the Hezbollahi supervisor of that unit for supporting his subordinate is certainly not in step with the revolution.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Taft said: Despite the fact that 18 months have passed since the Islamic Republic of Iran's acceptance of the resolution [598], the diabolical regime of the Zionist Saddam continues to sabotage the implementation of the resolution. If the brave people of Islamic Iran become disappointed in the efforts of international organizations, it is obvious that they are prepared to kick the Zionist enemy out of the remaining territories of the Islamic land as they did in Khorramshahr, Susangerd, and other regions of our Islamic mother land.

Mohammad Mehdi Rahbari-Amlashi, Representative of the People of Rudsar

The second and final pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Rahbari-Amlashi, the representative of the people of Rudsar, who at the beginning of his speech pointed out the massive demonstration of the heroic people of Iran on God's day of 22 Bahman [11 February] and said:

The glorious and unique demonstrations of 22 Bahman [11 February] of this year showed that the people are still steadfast and firm in their support of the Islamic regime and its principals and are present on the scene. This demonstration was a new covenant with the Islamic system and the true line of the late Imam and, also, it was the renewal of their covenant with the exalted leadership. Such participation by the people adds to our responsibility to serve the people and the downtrodden.

He added: In the outside world, with the grace of God, our enemies are the enemies of God and the downtrodden and our friends are the justice-seekers and the pious. However, the important point is to be safe from the conspiracies of our internal as well as our external enemies and return their harm to them. The most important issue being considered by the enemy at this time is the objective of causing division among the true and loyal friends of the revolution and Islam and, particularly, smearing the names of the true friends of the Islamic regime. In a nutshell, this is an account of the recent events in Qom.

The speaker, in another part of his speech, pointed to the rebuilding of the country's administrative organization and said: What is presently important in the Islamic regime is the policy of the respected government regarding the implementation of the Five-Year Plan, which has been approved by the exalted leadership. What may cause faltering in the correct implementation of this plan is the organizational structure of the country's administration. It is not only incapable of carrying this heavy load, it may even cause a breakdown of the efforts. Regretfully, the National Administrative and Employment Organization has not been able to present a correct way for correcting the organization. The national organization, which is a left-over from the time of the satan [the shah] and is modeled after western countries, is still in place although it is not really suitable for work and constructive activities. The Majles has been prepared, during the past three terms, to cooperate in changing the executive organization. However, regretfully, it seems that the executive officials are not serious about this matter. Changing the organization requires a decisive and firm approach, although it is natural to assume that it will be the cause of difficulties. Ultimately this difficulty must be endured. Delegation of authority to local and provincial officials and governors, trusting them, reducing and later abolishing administrative protocols, reducing the number of service personnel, rewarding the dedicated and active personnel, punishing the guilty, implementing or creating parallel organizations are among the most important requirements. A well planned job requires a leap and firm resolve along with extraordinary conditions which have not occurred yet. Many officials are still busy doing what they used to do. However, there is still hope.

The respected government must evaluate the Five-Year Plan on a quarterly basis and announce to the people, through the mass media, where we are in regard to the schedule. It is regretful that our country, with all of its God given and plentiful economic resources, has not been able to succeed in the field of economy. Underdeveloped countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Pakistan, with less resources and lower incomes, may be better off than we are. From the 150 billion dollars that we have spent during the last several years, if we assume that one-third has been spent directly on the war efforts—which has not been—the rest has gone to waste. If one was to criticize this squandering there will be political allegations of all sorts leveled at the individual. Constructive criticism must be accepted wholeheartedly, even if it is from indifferent individuals. Unfortunately, at times exaggerations and, God forbid, flatter is more attractive. No matter how good people may be and how valuable their contributions, if they are not saints, they may be subject to criticism.

In regard to international developments, Mr. Rahbari-Amlashi said: In our foreign policy, it is expected that we strengthen our relations with Islamic countries at all costs. We cannot consider ourselves separate from other Islamic countries. In regard to the issue of Hajj [pilgrimage] which is a religious-political issue, we should not make it merely a political matter. Hajj is an important pillar of Islam, and the physical presence of the nation of Hezbollah in this ceremony is dangerous for the wretched House of Saud. I must also add that the world is undergoing a great and fate-determining transformation. The socialist and communist systems of the East Bloc have fallen apart. Western countries are incapable of fulfilling the intellectual needs of the God-seeking and justice-loving nations. Only Islam and the Islamic system can respond to the needs of the awakened nations. Have we been a good role model, considering all the political issues, the factionalism, economic aspects, and false pretences.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Rudsar alluded to the problems of his constituency and said: His Excellency Mr. Sa'idi-Kya the roadway that was supposed to be approved and delivered in the year 65 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] has not been approved yet.

Also, I give notice to the minister of education and training in connection with the relocation of the Education and Training Office of the Rahimabad region of Rudsar, which all its preliminary plans have been prepared. And, to Dr. Kalantari in connection with the establishment of the Rural Service Center of the city region of Rudsar.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was the suggestion to shelve for three months the report of the Islamic Institutions Commissions regarding the legal plan for "the necessity of excluding factories and manufacturing units of the Islamic Revolution Martyrs' Foundation and the 15 Khordad Foundation from the Law of Expansion and Protection of Iran's Industry, passed by the Revolutionary Council on 1358/4/10 [1 July 1979]" whose single-urgency motion was passed by the Islamic Consultative Majles on 68/9/28 [19 December 1989].

In regard to this suggestion, Mr. Jahangiri offered some explanations and Mr. Rohani-Nia spoke as an opponent of the plan. Then it was put to a vote and passed by the deputies.

The Second Item on the Agenda

The second item on the agenda was continuation of the investigation of the first round of consultations by the commission to draft the internal directives regarding "rejection of the legal plan to attach one note to article 106 of the internal directives of the Islamic Consultative Majles."

In continuation of the investigation of this plan, after comments by three opponents and two proponents, Mr. Harati spoke as the third proponent of rejecting the plan and Messrs. Qoreyshi and Taslimi spoke in opposition to rejection of this plan. After some comments by the reporter of the commission and one of the sponsors of the plan, the generalities of the said plan were put to a vote and passed.

The Third Item on the Agenda

The third item on the agenda was the report of the first round of consultations of the joint commission of judicial and legal and planning and budget regarding interpretation of Note 35 of the National Budget Law for the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] which was passed by the deputies after the explanations of the reporter of the commission.

The Fourth Item on the Agenda

The fourth item on the agenda was the report of the first round of consultations by the commission to draft the internal directives of the Islamic Consultative Majles regarding the plan to correct some points of the internal directives of the Islamic Consultative Majles. After some explanations by the reporter of the commission, the said plan was put to a vote and was not passed by the deputies.

The Fifth Item on the Agenda

The report of the second round of consultations of the special commission for the legal plan regarding the conclusion of the parliamentary term of deputies and conclusion of their membership in councils and various organizations was the fifth item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

Article One: With the end of each legislative term, the terms of those who are appointed to participate in councils and various organizations, for determined or undetermined periods, as representative of the Legislative Branch comes to end also.

Note One: The new Majles shall act upon appointing new representatives after its initiation and approval of the credentials of a majority of the deputies and election of a new and permanent leadership.

Note Two: Until the appointment of the new representative, the previous representatives shall continue to work.

Note Three: This law is enforceable from the time of its passing.

Article One and the above notes were passed by the deputies.

The Last Item on the Agenda

The sixth and final item on the agenda was the report of the first round of consultations of the councils and internal affairs commission regarding the legal plan for selection of governors-general and deputy governors-general. After some explanations by the reporter of the commission, Mr. Rahchamani spoke as an opponent and Mr. Majid Ansari spoke as a proponent of rejecting this plan.

Continuation of investigating this plan was postponed until the next open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

* 14 Feb Session

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Division: The open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding and continued with Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat presiding. In this session, following the recitation of verses from the Koran, Messrs. Astaneh, the representative of Sarband; Rahmati, the representative of Shahreza; and Khak, the representative of Rasht; and Nowbakht, the representative of Rasht spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the representatives' memos to the country's executive officials were read, and the Majles went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was a report, by the judicial and legal affairs committee, concerning Mr. Qazizadeh's request for a study and investigation of the problems of the people and the farmers of the city of Sarakhs and the operation of the judicial and public prosecution organization of Mashhad, which was ratified.

The second item on the agenda was the legislative proposal to determine the conditions and procedures for the selection of governors-general and deputy governors-general, which was not ratified but was rejected.

The last item on the agenda was the bill on the law for using the overtime services of the faculty and non-faculty employees of the universities and higher education institutions, for which the report on the first round of discussions was ratified by the representatives.

Mahmud Astaneh, Representative of the People of Sarband

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Mr. Mahmud Astaneh, the representative of the people of Sarband. He said: The greetings of God to the Muslim people of Iran, who by their

alert presence in the march honoring God's day, 22 Bahman [11 February], once again announced to the world that they will protect their revolution under any circumstances. And now that the global Islamic movement has heightened with their constant presence on the scene, they give life and movement to the enslaved nations, like the sun on the roof of the world.

He then added: Today is 14 February, which coincides with the anniversary of the issuance of the imam's decree concerning the execution of Salman Rushdie, the author of the heathen book "The Satanic Verses," to whose author the British government prepaid $85,000. For this reason, once again I will read the history-making and conspiracy-burning decree of the beloved imam: "In the name of the Almighty. We come from God and unto Him shall we return. Inform all the brave Muslims throughout this world that the author of 'The Satanic Verses'—a book which has been written, printed, and published against Islam, the Prophet, and the Koran—as well as its publishers, who are well aware of its contents, are condemned to death. I ask the brave Muslims to immediately execute them wherever they are found, so that no one dares insult the sacred beliefs of Muslims. Anyone killed in this endeavor will be considered a martyr. God willing, if someone has access to the author of the book, but is unable himself to carry out the execution, he should reveal his information to the people in order that he be punished for his actions. Greetings to you and God's mercy and blessing. Ruhollah Musavi-Khomeyni, 14 February 1989."

Mr. Astaneh continued: Following the publication of the imam's decree, his honor Engineer Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic, in a communique upon the instructions of the imam declared 15 February 1989 a day of mourning for those martyred throughout the world, in particular in Pakistan, in protesting the publication of "The Satanic Verses." Salman Rushdie, who went into hiding from the moment the imam's religious decree was issued, on 18 February 1989, that is, only four days after the issuance of the execution decree, apologized to the Muslims of the world, saying that he was deeply sorry that his book had upset the sincere followers of Islam. Three days after the publication of the communique of Salman Rushdie, the following announcement was issued from the office of the imam:

In the name of the Almighty

The foreign colonialist media have falsely reported from the officials of the Islamic Republic that if the author of "The Satanic Verses" repents, his execution order will be rescinded. Imam Khomeyni—may God increase his life—has stated that this report is totally false. Even if Salman Rushdie repents and becomes the most pious man of the age, it is the duty of every Muslim to spend his life and wealth to send him to hell.

The speaker then continued: The imam added that if a non-Muslim should learn of his hiding place and be capable of executing him sooner than a Muslim, it is obligatory for a Muslim to give him as a reward or wage whatever he wants for this act. Now, the imam is no longer among us, but we shall advance those objectives under the leadership of the grand leader of the revolution, who has shown us the way with the artillery of his speech and message.

The representative of the people of Sarband also added in conclusion: The decree (of the imam) to form the 20-million-strong army was not to defend Iran, with a population of 50 million, but to defend pure Islam, fight the sworn enemies of Islam, and take over the specified objectives, that is, Israel and Zionism, this cancerous cyst in the heart of the Islamic countries; the great Satan, the criminal United States, this headstrong enemy of the Islamic nation and revolution; the usurping rulers in Saudi Arabia, these murderers of the guests to the divine sanctuary; filthy Wahabism, the infidels and heathens from the left and right; the blind-hearted hypocrites; the Arab reactionaries; the cursed Salman Rushdie and dozens of other objectives that were the target of the artillery of the imam's speech in near and far-away places. All these goals must be implemented by his regime, that is, by you, us, and every Muslim who expects the victory and power of Islam. Defending the sanctuary of Islam and attaining its goals are specified and are not exclusive to our generation. How fortunate it would be if under the heading of the grand leader of the revolution and the commander-in-chief we were to attain these goals. Otherwise, our children shall continue our bloody path.

Rahmati, Representative of the People of Shahreza

Mr. Rahmati, the representative of the people of Shahreza, was the second pre-agenda speaker. Referring to the great march of the brave people of Iran on God's day, 22 Bahman, he said:

As an Iranian citizen and a small member of this great revolutionary society, I thank our defiant, faithful, brave, revolutionary nation for showing with their magnificent march on 22 Bahman that this great revolution shall not stop for a moment.

The noble people of my constituency, Shahreza and Dehaqan, like other people in the country, celebrated these 10 days very well, even magnificently. And the ceremonies in this city were truly no less impressive than in the past, if not better.

He continued: The coordination and cooperation of the Muslim people of the world is very good and in tune with our people, despite the pressures of governments on them and from the midst of the loud propaganda against the regime and Islamic revolution of Iran, as we saw. This shows that with divine power, our revolution has found and is finding its way among the nations in the farthest reaches of the world. Now that one year has passed since the decree of our late imam, not one bit of the enthusiasm of the Muslim people of the world has subsided in terms of respect for and belief in this decree. This means that the oppressing world must submit to

this truth: Islam dominates and nothing will be above it. Our God-seeking nation believes in the values and will by no means sacrifice its values for material comfort. This must also be known to our politicians. Although economic issues are issues that our people are interested in and the government must try to provide for the economic welfare of the society, one thing must not be forgotten. They must be careful that, God forbid, the revolutionary values are not by any means sacrificed for the material and economic welfare of the society. This great movement of the people showed that while the people faced economic problems, they truly participated in this great movement. Their magnificent participation indicates that what they shall not by any means tolerate is the loss of their values.

In another part of his speech, the speaker referred to the Five-Year Plan and said: Now that the Five-Year Plan has been written, it is sufficient for the government and all officials to try first of all to proceed within the framework of the plan and then follow a sound competition which is pleasing to God to achieve the objectives of the plan.

Then, making several reminders to the executive officials, he said: The serving, hard-working government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani must also be watchful of the opportunists and leech-like and rootless capitalists who think of nothing but their stomachs and sexual desires so that they do not suck the blood of the oppressed people who are loyal and faithful to the revolution more than they already have. I have a reminder for the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic. While I thank these brothers for their efforts, I believe that we can produce very valuable moral issues, particularly in short television programs, and broadcast them during prime time. We must work on this issue. We do not make as much use of this public university as we could.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Shahreza issued memos concerning water for Shahreza.

'Alireza Khak, Representative of the People of Rasht

Mr. Khak, from the Rasht electoral region, was the third pre-agenda speaker. He began his speech with greetings to the souls of the martyrs of the revolution.

He said: We have finished the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution and entered the 12th year of the victory of the revolution. If in the course of the 11 years since the revolution for various reasons we were unable to eliminate the political, economic, and social problems of the country, it is because for a long time we were involved in the war, and then we began the reconstruction of what had been destroyed in the war. If in the course of 11 years we could not take effective steps in terms of the agricultural and industrial growth of the country, if we were unable to make proper use of the potential resources of the country and to change the revenues from the sale of the God-given resources into capital, if in regard to harnessing the water in the country and making use of the great water potential both in regard to electricity production and also irrigation of the arable lands except in combined forms by the Construction Jihad, it is because we used the war as an excuse. We may have used the weakness of one thing or another as an excuse, but today, after 11 years, they will accept no excuse from us and demand plans and results.

He continued: The people know the representatives as responsible elements. Even if others call the representatives of the people irresponsible, the people consider them responsible and question them. The representatives of the people must respond to the people. The Majles is one of the important branches of the government. As the imam said, it is at the top of all affairs. But it must legislate in all necessary areas, and the government is the implementer of the policies determined by the Majles. The Majles has not undergone a quality change even internally, and in this session of the Majles no new action can be seen. The Majles continues a method that has been established in the past in its conventional form. Of course, some might have wanted the Majles to always remain a weak organization, unable to be the source of revolutionary action and to take initiatives. But the main duty of the Majles representatives is to examine all the important issues of the country and study the best, most comprehensive, and practical legislation to run the affairs of the country and to exchange views with experts to obtain expert proof in order to offer the necessary plans and examine the bills sent by the government and strive to advance the affairs of the country and the regime. Spending the valuable time of the Majles in discussions and examinations of very minor issues in the open sessions of the Majles over the course of years has been a factor in the stagnation of the Majles. In order for problems to be solved and changes brought about within the Majles, I propose that the number of Majles committees be reduced from 26 to 13 as follows.

The names of the proposed committees:

1 - The Education, Culture, Higher Education, and Physical Education Committee

2 - The Islamic Guidance, Mass Media, and Foreign Policy Committee

3 - The Administrative and Employment Affairs, and Labor and Social Affairs Committee

4 - The Economic Affairs and Finance, Accounting and Financial Affairs of the Majles Committee

5 - The Petroleum Affairs, Post, Telegraph and Energy Committee

6 - The Industries and Mines, Commerce and Distribution Committee

7 - The Housing and Urban Development, Roads and Transport, Councils and Internal Affairs Committee

8 - The Judicial Affairs, Legal, Writing of Bylaws and Laws of Before and After the Revolution, and Religious Endowments Committee

9 - The Defense Affairs, the Self-Sacrificers Foundation, and the Martyrs' Foundation Committee

10 - The Health, Welfare, Emergency, and Social Security Committee

11 - The Article 90 and Research and Investigation of Questions Committee

12 - The Agricultural Affairs and Construction Jihad Committee

13 - The Plan and Budget Committee, composed of the chairmen and spokesmen of the above 12 committees. In other words, due to the importance of the plan and budget committee as the parent committee, the chairman and spokesman of the 12 committees of the Majles will be the members of the Plan and Budget Committee, and thus all the Majles committees will be represented in the Plan and Budget Committee. In order to solve the problem of time, the duration of the open sessions of the Majles should be reduced to one or two days per week, and the proposals and bills studied carefully in the committees and then presented in the open session of the Majles. After the arguments of one supporter and one opponent, the committee and the government, the matter will be put to a vote.

Mr. Khak continued his speech in this regard and said: The martyr-nurturing and revolutionary people of this country have realized full well that in order to solve the political and economic problems of the country and in order to achieve the necessary progress in all areas, the Majles must make use of elements who firstly have broad scientific or practical knowledge in areas needed by the country and secondly have the national will to achieve these goals. For this reason, it is necessary for everyone to strive to ensure that in the future all representatives who enter the Majles are chosen from among the experts and committed individuals with broad expert experience, or chosen from among the expert academic figures in various scholarly fields, in order that they be able to legislate well. For this reason, I propose that the examination of the competence of the candidates for the Majles for the future session, rather than being conducted by the executive election board, which itself is not made up of people who are necessarily competent, be entrusted to a group of university professors appointed by the Majles in the previous session, and that all the Majles representatives register two months prior to the elections and that their qualifications be examined and announced within a sufficient period. Thus, the history of individuals in regard to scholarly and executive knowledge will be examined carefully, and their qualifications for the important issue of legislation will be evaluated. For this reason, change must come from within the Majles. The Majles must be changed from its present condition or begin a new move towards the growth and prosperity of the country. The Majles must be a place for the exchange of views and offering of political and economic viewpoints to achieve a rational and logical solution for the administration of the Islamic regime in the best possible manner and ultimately for the creation of an exemplary country to be presented as a model to the world.

Stating that today the administration of the affairs of the country is not possible except through reliance on the opinions of the experts and that individuals cannot run the country by relying on their own personal views and tastes, the speaker said: Because of a lack of coordination among the views of the political personalities of the country and the changes in viewpoints, in the short term there is no smooth path to solve the economic and political problems of the country, and in order to administer the affairs of the country, a single policy must be devised to be acted on. The lack of support for devising a single policy will result in great problems. In the area of solving the problem of ownership and the ownership of industries and factories, there are major problems, and the major part of the decrease in production and the escape of capital from the country are the result of lack of economic security in the country. For this reason, the capital of the country is not employed for production or is sent abroad in foreign currency or used inside the country to buy and sell luxury items. Recently, most unfortunately, we have witnessed the entry of worthless goods such as cigarettes, chewing gum, candy, and bananas. This is a continuation of the policies of the tyrant.

In another part of his speech, the representative of the people of Rasht criticized the cultural reaction to the agents of the global oppressors and said: The lack of understanding of the complexities of the global imperialist policies on the part of the operators of foreign policy unfortunately not only failed to bring about success in dealing with global oppressors, but reduced the great potential of the supporters of the Islamic revolution and the liberation movements abroad and their trust in the Islamic revolution. Some even became opponents of the Islamic revolution. What is the way to fight global heathenism? Can global heathenism be fought with noise, or can more practical and rational ways be found? Can we advance against cultural imperialism and its agents, such as Salman Rushdie, by making a ruckus? Will this action not lead to the advancement of their sinister objectives, their increased popularity and prestige? Most unfortunately, we must confess that the method that was chosen to fight the enemy has brought about nothing less than making his book a world-wide best seller and has made of him a popular personality. We revealed a way to fight Islam and imperialism, and he took advantage of our sensitivity. [sentence as puyblished] Because of the economic poverty of the Islamic world and the lack of understanding on the part of the Muslim youth in countries where reactionary Islam rules, the United States from now on, through cultural attacks from Salman Rushdie's book, can scare away the young people from Islam and, by creating in them a lack

of trust in Islam, will follow its sinister objectives. In order to fight a book, one must write a book, and in order to combat this great cultural attack, the rich Islamic culture must be put to use.

The Islamic regime must be implemented in practice, and by creating economic growth and implementing justice in the polluted and poisonous climate of the world, become victorious.

In concluding his speech, he considered decisive dealing with responsible elements and preventing their interference in the executive affairs an inevitable issue.

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht, Representative of the People of Rasht

The fourth and final pre-agenda speaker in the open session of the Majles yesterday was Mr. Nowbakht, the representative of the people of Rasht. Initially, he said: With regard to Article 67 of the Constitution and in order to carry out my duty as a representative, I have found it necessary to speak of certain issues to the honorable representatives.

If we evaluate the events of the past 11 years, we precisely reach the conclusion that with a military and cultural attack aimed at destroying a new phenomenon called Islam, everyone has begun to work, and up to this point, with the help of God, if we add it all up, we come to the conclusion that the revered people and nation have succeeded in withstanding all attacks. Hence, the duty and responsibility from here on is more important than in the past.

There must be a proper outcome to all these efforts made by the revered and self-sacrificing people of Iran.

He then pointed out: One of the goals determined in the five-year economic development plan is to harness inflation. In order to harness inflation, the budget deficit must be reduced. In order to reduce the budget deficit, it is necessary for government revenues to increase, and this increase in revenues, as determined in the Five-Year Plan, will be achieved by increasing the tax revenues. We have projected a 25.3 percent tax revenue increase in the Five-Year Plan. I once again inform all the honorable representatives who are cognizant of the matter and also remind the honorable government that with the existing resources and tools in the tax system, such revenues and amounts can by no means be attained unless we revise the organizational structure of the tax collection apparatus. When the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance approves the collection of such an amount, the board will make eight conditions. Unfortunately, in our Five-Year Plan, the first of the conditions were not realized. Hence, if we imagine that with the existing resources we will be able to reach such a percentage, we are badly mistaken. Increased pressure on the existing tax resources will result in nothing but increased discontent. Some of these conditions require us to have new laws. One of these conditions states that taxes on all non-governmental foundations and institutions, which were previously exempt, must be excluded from this exemption, and these institutions must pay taxes. Hence, we still have not had such a bill or proposal from the government or the Majles. With no such regulations, in addition to the other seven instances, the collection of such an amount will be impossible. If it is impossible to collect this amount, we will be forced to borrow from the banking system, and that will result in nothing but double inflation. Hence, as a sympathetic person, I proposed that the government determine and prepare the necessary grounds as soon as possible to collect such taxes. Continuing his speech, Mr. Nowbakht added: On the other hand, an increase in rates is dependent on more than the budget deficit. There is another matter as well, that of the affect of rates on each other. When the government itself increases the rate of services or government revenues, other rates as well will increase. In the past few weeks, we have witnessed that when the opinion was expressed that the price of domestically-made cars should increase, immediately the price of cars increased, but the prices were not restricted to this. The price of essential goods also increased. Hence, when we hear that if the government wanted to it could bring down prices, although it is a layman's statement, it is still an important statement to which the government must pay heed.

In this connection, the speaker referred to the agricultural problems and said: At a time when we procure agricultural products, particularly rice, at a high price, and the price of a ton of imported rice reached from $185 to $480, and we have to produce rice domestically, and we even exempted rice production from taxes, in the past few months, we have witnessed that a ratification was proposed with the signatures of three honorable ministers to bring the price of water for every hectare of agricultural farm land to nearly 4,000 tomans, whereas in the past few years about 200 tomans per hectare of land was the price we collected from farmers for water. This increase in price (nearly 4,000 tomans) is indescribable. When we met with the farmers, they protested, and from this open podium, I declare the general protest of the rice farmers of Gilan who are unable to pay such an excessive amount. I propose that in this regard and in connection with the issue of rice and tea, the distinguished economic council hold a meeting of the economic council, and I also recommend to the local authorities of this province who are on this council to participate in it so that we will not have the problem this year that we had last year in regard to tea and rice.

Continuing his statements and saying that the possibility of expanding rice production exists, provided the necessary machinery and fertilizers are placed at the disposal of farmers, he added: Unfortunately, we have important problems in connection with the machinery which have not been resolved. Such an increase in water prices is an issue, and I did not expect of the honorable minister of agriculture, our brother Dr. Kalantari, who was kind enough to come to Gilan and announce that in connection with the Gilan farmers the necessary time and resources had not been given, that he would then go and

sign such a ratification which will certainly result in a decrease in rice production.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Rasht said: There is another issue which I must take this opportunity to inform the honorable government about, which is that all the educators proposed that it will not suffice to give them a few tubes of toothpaste and shampoo, as is done with other employees and workers; rather, they expect to be treated appropriately and favorably in this regard. Here, it is necessary for me to thank the judicial organization in Gilan for its rapid action in dealing with a few cases. This is the product of the efforts of the Justice Department of the province, and we expect the same rapidity of action in other cases so that we will witness social justice in the province and throughout the country.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the report of the judicial and legal affairs committee in regard to the request of Mr. Qazizadeh-Hashemi about investigating the problems of the people and the farmers of the city of Sarakhs and the operation of the judicial and public prosecutor's organization of Mashhad.

After the statements of the spokesman of the committee, Mr. Qazizadeh-Hashemi also stated his explanation in this regard. Mr. Qazizadeh-Hashemi's request for an investigation was put to a vote and ratified.

The Second Item on the Agenda

The second item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions of the councils and internal affairs committee concerning the rejection of the legal proposal to determine the conditions and procedures to select governors-general and deputy governors-general.

In regard to the rejection of the proposal, Messrs. Behzadyan, Qoreyshi, Rahmati, and Taheri spoke in opposition to the rejection of the proposal, and Messrs. Shafe'i, 'Abbasi, Fada'i, and Ahmad Nateq-Nuri spoke in support of the proposal. After the views of the spokesman of the committee and the representative of the Ministry of the Interior were expressed, the proposal was put to a vote, not ratified, but was rejected.

The Third Item on the Agenda

The third item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions of the Plan and Budget Committee in regard to rejecting the bill to attach one paragraph as Paragraph 17 to Note 8 of the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] budget law.

Paragraph 17: Up to the amount of 1.4 billion rials from the ceiling of the ratification for the central offices of education of the provinces, Part 5 of this law, will be proposed to provide for the deficits of the central organizations as follows:

1. Ministry of Education, with classification No. 127500.

2. Ministry of Education, the supervisory offices of the schools abroad with classification No. 127501.

3. Ministry of Education, the administration office of the supreme council of education, with classification No. 127502.

4. Ministry of Education, the research and educational planning agency, with classification No. 127504.

5. Ministry of Education, the Martyr Mohebbi School for the Blind, with classification No. 127507.

6. Ministry of Education, the Baghcheban School for the Deaf and Dumb, with classification No. 127508.

7. Ministry of Education, technical and professional training, with classification No. 127700, will be deducted to be added to the ceiling of the current funds of the above-mentioned organizations upon verification.

In regard to these bills, Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji spoke in support of the rejection and Mr. Akrami in opposition to the rejection, and then the main part of the proposal was put to a vote and was not ratified.

The Last Item on the Agenda:

The last item on the agenda was the report to the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education on the first round of discussions of the health and welfare committee in regard to the bill to extend the law on the use of the overtime services of the faculty and non-faculty employees of the universities and higher education institutions ratified in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987].

Article 1: From the date of the ratification of this law, the medical science universities and affiliated educational and research institutions and those affiliated with the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education shall be subject to the law on using the overtime services of the faculty and non-faculty employees of the universities and higher education institutions of the country ratified on 29 July 1986 by the Majles and its later amendments.

The Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education shall assume the duties and responsibilities stated in the above-mentioned laws for the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education within this law.

The general points of the bill, after the explanation of the spokesman of the committee and the representative of the government, were ratified by the representatives.

The Majles shall have an open session on Sunday morning next week.

18 Feb Session

PM1403164090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 Feb 90 pp 5, 9

[Report by RESALAT's legal and parliamentary correspondent on 18 February open session of the Majles chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemyan]

[Text] The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Yar Mohammad 'Arab 'Ameri, the people's deputy from Garmsar. He sent his greetings to and asked for God's blessings for the nation's imam, founder of the Islamic republic who for years carried the banner of struggle against heretics, aggressors and dissenters. He then said:

Today the flag of the imam and the supreme jurisconsult is in the hands of the most valued and the most worthy of the imam's students Ayatollah Khamene'i. May God protect and bless him and may the imam's spirit be his companion.

He then commented on the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution and said:

We spent the 11th anniversary of the revolution under conditions when the enemies of Islam expected the people to grow indifferent toward the revolution and leave the streets empty during mass processions on that holy day. They pointed to that as the best sign to prove that Islam had failed. They said because the waves of the revolution cannot be seen among the people anymore, then there is no reason why the revolution should continue and remain. They did not know that millions of people are supporters of the supreme jurisconsult. Their imam told them to support supreme jurisconsult so that the country would not face any danger. We saw and they saw how these people threw themselves into the streets in the cold weather in waves to shout slogans in favor of supreme jurisconsult to shut the filthy and putrid mouths of the enemies of Islam. They made the respected leader and the president grateful toward them.

Mr. 'Arab 'Ameri then addressed the president Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Mosleminn Hashemi-Rafsanjani, companion to the imam and the Islamic revolution. He said: On 26 July 1989 an agreement was reached between the ministers of energy and agriculture in four parts. In the third segment of this agreement the price of water for farming has been set at four percent of the total value of the crops raised on a piece of land. For some crops such as citrus and garden vegetables it could even be 10 percent. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, each hectare of cotton costs 600,000 rials and gives on average of two tons of cotton, which, given the rate assigned by the Economic Council comes to 600,000 rials. The farmer, in order to make his crop worth some money is then driven into unsavory activity. If our farmers put 10 hectares of land into wheat farming and another 10 hectares into cotton, the percentage produced would have been very satisfactory. But the farmer whose wife and children, plus himself are slaves to two hectares of wheat and two hectares of cotton, who earn in a year from the growth of these crops less than 500,000 rials—what are they supposed to do?

He then added: We all know that providing water and creating dams costs the government a lot of money, but their cost should not be coming from the farmers who make up the most oppressed layers of our society, who also make up a considerable portion of the population. They should not be placed under more pressure.

Mr. 'Arab 'Ameri added: In the Five-Year Plan we have predicted 158,000 new jobs in the agricultural sector. The way the gentlemen have suggested this, we shall also add about the same number to the list of the unemployed people. Perhaps the Ministry of Energy has in mind to create a new set up to collect these percentages and perhaps wants to create and start rice-cleaning workshops, tea-drying facilities and weaving in order to create jobs. Of course I want to tell the dear farmers that according to clause 33 of the water law, this decision has to be approved by the Economic Council. Since the respected council wants to keep agriculture as a source of revenue, it will of course not approve of the rate. On the other hand if the children of these farmers decide to stay on the land, to carve out a job for themselves, perhaps build a factory or industry, the environment people raise their heads. They say that this has to be 200 meters away from the village. Of course then a village is classified as being in a farming area and turning farm land into industrial sites is illegal. What can this poor servant of God do—because of us—other than to come into the cities, to sell cigarettes, live on the edges of town and establish contacts with mafia-type gangs involved in corruption, smuggling and theft?

In this country we have an environment department which complained to a household some two km from Garmsar because the house was next to a chicken farm. They closed down the chicken farm. Because of another complaint, on a cold night they went and took the sheep belonging to another villager out of their pens, causing considerable damage to that farmer. Perhaps if the environment department identified the difference between a town and a village, the problem would be solved.

I see it necessary to thank the respected deputy ministers in the Ministry of Health Education and two unknown and dedicated soldiers of this field, Dr. Pileh-Rudi and Dr. Shadpur. Expecting nothing, they try night and day to control infected areas and communicable diseases which can be prevented, to raise health standards and somehow control the population which is growing at an unacceptable rate.

The deputy from Garmsar concluded: Perhaps some of the respected deputies are aware that infant mortality in Garmsar had reached 27 in every 1,000 for babies under one year old and that 98.8 percent of the newborn are healthy. Life expectancy is now 74 and 98.5 percent of the people have less than half an hour's walk before they

get to a medical center. One hundred percent of the people now have clean water, vaccination is at 91.6 percent, death among pregnant women has dropped to zero and the death of children because of diarrhea or other diseases which can be prevented by a vaccine has also dropped to zero. In other words there has been an enormous effort by Dr. Mir Asadi, the dedicated doctor who has lived in village near Garmsar for 20 years, who for seven years has been responsible for the health division in the town. With the help of other brothers and sisters in the health division, he has brought about a situation whereby the expectations of the WHO from the Third World country for the year 2,000 have been met. On behalf of the people of Garmsar I wish to thank all of them. I hope that the minister of health Dr. Faxel will recognize these dear people in a worthy manner.

Mr. Dadgar, the people's deputy from Chabahar, was the second pre-agenda speaker. He limited his short speech to the recent floods in Chabahar. He said:

Dear colleagues, you have no doubt heard about the floods in Chabahar. This poor area, with all its limitations, has suffered huge damage. It seems the province of Sistan va Bluchestan comes under a test from God every year. We will make the best of the situation. This is one of the biggest strengths of the Islamic revolution, to face up to conditions, despite all the problems that have been caused for us by world aggressors. Even this need of the Muslims will be removed. I hereby tell the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, that the flood-stricken and deprived peoples of that area, while renewing their allegiance to you, are looking to you for your fatherly generosity. Of course, the officials under order from the leader have done the necessary things. We must also at this time thank the respected president Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for sending a delegation to the area to review the situation there.

He thanked the governor general of Sistan va Baluchestan Province and the governor of Chabahar for sending help to the flood victims. He asked the appropriate authorities to send some delegations to the region to make estimates on the damage to make the necessary arragements.

At the end of his short speech, Mr. Dadgar gave some details to the appropriate authorities.

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Behzadyan, the deputy from Qa'enat who commented on the enormous demonstrations on 11 February—anniversary of the revolution. He said: The Islamic ummah once again showed the world with their presence on the scenes where the revolution was defended on 11 February that they will defend with everything they have the Islamic movement started by the Imam, the great leader of the revolution, 26 years ago, which reached success 11 years ago. They proved that no problem can deter them. This is because in accordance with their leader's statement, they did not stage a revolution to gain material wealth or worldly goods. We saw in the past years how these people always stood by the principles of their revolution, under any difficult condition and how they came to the scene. The imam said in his spiritual and political will that these people are even better than those who lived during the time of the Prophet. We hope that we and all other officials have the honor and chance to serve these people.

The deputy then talked about the budget for the new year and said: One thing that I would like to ask the government of our brother Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is to hand in the new budget as soon as possible so that there will be enough time to study it in Majles special commissions. Perhaps he will say that the budget will be handed to the Majles within the framework of the Five-Year Plan whose outlines are clear. But I say that the budget has to be closed sooner than the Five-Year Plan. The programs for the figures for part D of clause 29 of the budget bill which is $7.5 billion in foreign loans have to be clarified and they know that this needs a lot of work. This is the first budget of the Five-Year Plan and the first budget of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsnajani's government that is being handed to the Majles. It would be good if there were anti-inflation policies in it as well as adequate provisions to fight against high prices. The budget should be something within which social justice should be made clear.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Behzadyan commented on the recent plot by world aggressors and said: During the past 10 years of the revolution our people have experienced that just as they wish to show their presence on the scenes, the enemies of the revolution try shomehow to spoil this. We saw that at the end of January the enemies of the revolution hijacked a plane and we saw how in previous years after the big demonstrations on 11 February the enemies would again try to spoil the huge presence of the people in some way or another. Unfortunately we saw on Friday [16 February] how a group of thugs and hooligans, whose links with the revolution's foreign enemies were quite obvious, tried to spoil the glorious demonstrations on 11 February. After the football games were called off, they bothered the people and created an incident. Of course, with a policy of blind support for sports, hero worship, and employing questionable elements in the sports organization one could expect such results. We are asking those responsible at the sports organization to come forth and explain why the football games were called off on that day. If as they say the grounds were unsuitable, why was this explanation not broadcast by the mass media? At 1415 when the people had reached the shops, then the football federation of Tehran announced that the games had been called off. Also, why had the governor of Tehran not done enough to prevent such issues? The incident clearly shows the fault of the security forces, especially the police who had unfortunately left their places of duty before the incident. Those responsible in the police force should know that the Majles gives importance, value, as well as facilities in the laws that it passes to those

organizations which serve the revolution. As a deputy I am asking the government to investigate the issue to identify those at fault.

He continued his speech by remarking on the West's defeat in its cultural plot against the Islamic revolution. He said: After 10 years of experiencing hostility and repeated defeats, the devils of the West undertook a calculated cultural plot against the Islamic world and all Muslims. The Western leaders always thought that the Islamic regime, at the start of its reconstruction projects, needed Western technology, and so it would not be able to show any reaction to these plots. We saw how these cultural plots started and we saw the rise of the element connected to the world of Zionism, Salman Rushdie and his book "The Satanic Verses." We also witnessed the enormous propaganda undertaken for this book and trips made by Salman Rushdie to the United States and to other places. We saw the welcome given to the book by publishing houses, the welcome given by various governments for translations of the work, up until the history-making decree issued by the imam which indicated that Rushdie had to be killed. The issuance of this decree was the flag that had fallen out of the hands of Salladin 'Ayubi, which was now in the blessed hands of the imam in the face of this cultural war which was the new crusade against Islam and the Islamic world. Following this we saw an uprising by Muslims in various parts of the world: Pakistan, India, Kashmir, Bangkok and even in European countries. We also saw the worthy step being taken by the Majles with regard to cutting off ties with Britain. The situation went so far that even Islamic governments were forced to obey the leader of the Islamic world in their Islamic conference, and declare Salman Rushdie as a heretic who has to die. In the midst of this, the West employed everything it had in its power in terms of political, diplomatic, economic and propaganda means in order to stand against the leader of the Islamic world. I suggest to the Majles that if they think it is suitable, there should be a plan in this regard to call the day of the imam's decree of a day of struggle against Western plots. In any case, the Muslims in England formed themselves into an Islamic party and after June's glorious demonstrations and the ceremonies of solidarity among the resistance groups in England, we saw the reaction of the British government toward the imam's decree. This came in the form of following Muslims, bothering them and Iranian citizens.

The people's deputy from Qa'enat then talked about the deportation of Iranian students by the filthy British government and said:

These people have been deported on charges of wanting Islam, obeying the Imam and the leadership and serving them. The current trend which holds no sense of security for Iranian students is just as the British foreign minister has announced in that country's newspapers, that all Iranian students will be pursued and will be under watch. We think that any student who wants to serve this regime and is about to graduate, will be deported. One worthy step which has been announced by the Ministry of Higher Education and Culture, which has to be speeded up, is the cutting of cultural ties with Britain.

He thanked the leader who in last week's Friday prayers emphasized the imam's decree.

The speaker also asked the people to take part in the demonstrations in front of the British Embassy marking the issuance of the imam's decree and expressed the hope that our dear brother Dr. Mehrdad Kokabi, who is in an English jail, would soon be released to be able to return to Iran.

Mr. Seyyed Hoseyn Qazi-zadeh Hashemi, the people's deputy from Sarakhs, Ahmad-abad and Fariman as the fourth pre-agenda speaker at the Majles session.

He thanked the Majles on behalf of his constituents for approving a request to investigate the people's and the Sarakhs farmers' problems with the land office of Astane Qods [administrative office linked to the holy mosque in Mashhad] and the actions of the Mashhad public prosecutor.

He added: The Majles passed a law for the welfare of civil servants on 17 April 1988 and the government unfortunately passed the executive order for the law one year later in 1989. Why is this law not being implemented? Why is it being ignored in the ministries of economy and finance, housing and urban development and the Ministry of Commerce? Why is it that the Supreme Council of Banks does not implement the law by giving banking facilities and interest-free loans based on minimum pay to government civil servants, which is 4 percent for building a house, finishing one, repairing or buying a house. Why is it against this law? From the 194 items mentioned and passed in law, how many have so far been provided and distributed by the Ministry of Commerce? What programs do they have for the future of this program with regard to implementing this law? Why is it that the government has not handed in to the Majles Administrative and Personnel Commission, a report every six months with regard to this law through the Organization of Civil Service and Personnel Matters? We are asking the respected president to pay attention to civil servants by implementing this law, keeping in mind the rate of inflation.

Mr. Qazi-zadeh then addressed the Foreign Ministry and said: The details of the law passed in 1925 between Iran and the Soviet Union with regard to the usage of the waters of the river Tajen in Sarakhs, are very one-sided in favor of the Soviets. This is not fair. Also, by directing flood centers the width of the river has come deep into Iranian territory by four km. In 1963 the Soviets installed their pipes along the border four km into Iranian territory which is a clear violation. In the areas of Dowlat-abad and Nowruz-abad alone, some 360 hectares of the best Iranian land has been taken by the Soviet Union. The direction of the river has to be returned to its original state and the border has to be designated in its original place.

The deputy from Sarakhs added: I am asking the Ministry of Energy to speed up the building of levees along the river Tajen in Sarakhs. There must be great care with regard to building the levee in any border area, which should be done only after the precise designation of the border along its original path. I also wish to tell the government that the road along the border in Sarakhs, Pol-e Khatun and the gas refinery as well as the residential areas of the town of Sarakhs itself are in danger of a huge flood by the river Tajen. The government should prevent any type of damage through the governor general of Khorasan keeping in mind the importance of this area, by implementing a major national project like the first Five-Year Plan. At this time I would like to thank the timely intervention of the respected mayor of Sarakhs who prevented the flooding of 50,000 hectares of land in the Sarakhs area.

The speaker reminded the Ministry of Energy: It has been three months since the approval of a plan to increase the height of the old dam at Fariman by three meters by the regional Khorasan water authority. But unfortunately so far nothing has been done in this regard. It is requested that they speed up the process of adding three meters to the dam keeping in mind the supply of water for regional farmers.

In another part of his speech Qazi-zadeh Hashemi remembered the fourth anniversary of the martyrdom of eight Majles deputies, state officials and martyr Mahallati. He read parts of a speech first delivered to the Majles by martyr Shah Cheraghi during the 513th session of the First Majles. He added: Martyr Seyyed Hoseyn Shah Cheraghi saw what was about to happen today. At every sensitive time of the revolution, opportunists have tried to remove the dedicated forces of the revolution by common means through letters and notices delivered at night in the name of Hezbollah but without a signature. They have placed different labels on people but because of the peoples' awareness, they have been defeated. At the beginning of the revolution and during the government of martyr Raja'i, they placed the label of "communist" on these dear people of the revolution. After a while they prepared for the children of the revolution the label of "impure" and "mixed." Following the formation of the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in order to remove the forces in line with the imam, they chose for the proud government of Mr Musavi the label of "government of slogans." Recently following the choosing of the leader of the revolution, the common opportunists, who at all sensitive times of our revolution think that opportunists had banked on removing the forces serving the revolution and the people. Those who failed in politics yesterday and the opportunists of today in Khorasan had also recently banked on deviants from the path of supreme jurisconsult. I give notice to the Ministry of Information to identify and reveal these suspicious opportunists who threaten the people's unity sometimes by giving out night letters without signatures. The great leader of the revolution and the respected president must give orders because supervising the execution of laws, questioning and impeaching ministers is within the jurisdiction of Majles deputies. We saw how the opportunists placed their political pressure this time on the innocent deputy from Neyshabur, Mr Akbar-zadeh; this action was defeated because of the people's awareness. Unfortunately many holy people have fallen victim to common actions in their fight against the West, Western thought and the corrupt Western culture.

He concluded: Today the majority of the deputies from Khorasan, led by Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i, the elder brother of the great leader of the revolution, are coordinated with the rest of the deputies from other parts of the country. By the grace of God they are determined to make an effort to solve the people's problems using everything in their power, especially at this time of reconstruction.

The fifth and the last pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Ahmad Rahbari, the deputy from Razan, Famanin and Shara'. At the start of his speech he talked about the bitter incident at the Hamedan Agricultural Bank which occured on the eve of 11 February. He said: The night which was to be remembered as the night of defeat for world aggression in face of our unified Islamic ummah, the head of the agricultural bank, his wife, his two children and the guard at the bank, were murdered brutally. The savages acted in such a way so as not to leave a trace of their whereabouts. This is why they cut off the heads of five innocent people and stole 150 million rials of the bank's money. However the murderers faced Islamic justice and paid back for their crimes.

He added: On behalf of other deputies from Hamedan Province I would like to thank all those who had a hand in the arrest and punishment of the murderers. These include especially the revolution committee, police, governor general and govenor of Hamedan, who all had a hand in the quick identification of the murderers. I especially want to thank the judicial power which acted so swiftly in handing out punishment to them.

Only four days passed between the incident and the punishment of the guilty people. This swift action healed the wounds suffered by the people of the province as a result of the murder of the innocent people at the bank and it calmed them down. The funeral of the dear ones took place at the same time as the execution of the murderers. We convey our condolences to the families of the victims and our thanks go to the officials of the ummah who are always present on the scenes.

The speaker continued: Why is it that there was not enough security at the bank to prevent the murderers from entering the building? There is room for questions here. The swift action with regard to the punishment for the murderers has been supported by the unified Islamic ummah and the people expect that a similar thing should happen next time there is such an incident. Especially when it comes to the corrupt elements who deliver blows

against the regime and the revolution through economic means by sucking the people's blood. Why is it that these people should be allowed to ignore all the rules and laws, to act any way they wish? Why is it that there is no firm confrontation against those people who are determined to weaken the revolution through cultural and economic means?

We ask the judicial and the executive powers to act in a serious way when it comes to dealing with law breakers, who ignore the rights of the people, those who are affecting inflation and those who put the opporessed people under pressure. I am also requesting the respected deputies to think of solutions for the people's economic problems. If the situation goes on the way it is, we shall not have an answer to give to God and God's people.

Mr. Rahbari concluded his remarks by asking the government to be careful about appointments to make sure that the oppressed people and those who have suffered hardship get a better deal. They should take care because often those who are worthy of serving Islam and the revolution are put aside, he said.

Following the pre-agenda speeches, the deputy speaker of the Majles, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemyan made some remarks. He started by talking about the histroic revolt of the people of Tabriz on 18 February 1977. He said:

The people of Tabriz stood heroically against the hellish regime of the Shah and carried out their duty to Islam and to the revolution.

He added: 18 February was a turning point in the history of the Islamic revolution because with the people's revolt at this stage other mourning ceremonies were held throughout the country which spread the revolution.

Mr. Hashemyan said: The Majles along with the rest of the Iranian people place a high value on this revolt and send their greetings to the martyrs of 18 February.

The blood that was shed by the Shah's regime, was in fact shed by the United States and Britain. Any problem that we face now is because of the United States and Britain.

Mr. Hashemyan commented on the imposed war and said: If today our lands are occupied by the Iraqi army, they are in fact occupied by the United States.

Our heroic people are standing like a mountain in the face of military, political, economic and cultural attacks by the enemy and are defending their territory.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Hashemyan said: Any catastrophe that the Islamic world has is because of the United States and Britain. Today our Palestinian brothers in occupied Palestine are getting killed with American bullets. Today our brothers and sisters in Lebanon are under a barrage of American shells.

He concluded by hoping that the heroic people of Iran would continue to swear their allegiance to the leader in their struggle against world arrogance until such time that a pure Islamic regime is established in all Islamic lands.

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was a plan to encourage retired teachers to continue their cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Training, which had been returned by the Council of Guardians.

Correction made by the commission in order to secure the views of the Council of Guardians:

The following footnote will be added to the main body of the bill as footnote 7:

Footnote 7: The financial source for the bill and for footnotes 2, 3, 4 and 5 is provided from the fund for teachers' salaries.

The correction suggested by the commission was put to a vote and was approved.

The second item on the agenda was a plan to include the implementation of article 49 of the constitution with regard to the wealth gathered as a result of hoarding, smuggling and selling at inflated prices, passed by the Majles on 5 December 1989 which had been returned by the Council of Guardians.

Item: The courts dealing with the implementation of article 49 of the Constitution have the duty in accordance with article 49 of the Constitution to analyze carefully the wealth gathered by hoarders, smugglers and those who sell at inflated prices. They must take punitive actions to confiscate, record and seize the wealth that has been gathered by means contrary to the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a result of selling at inflated prices, hoarding and smuggling.

The correction suggested by the commission was put to a vote and was approved.

The third item on the agenda of the Majles session was a report by the legal and judicial commission with regard to a plan to evacuate the buildings belonging to the ministries of higher education and culture, health and health education and all organizations linked to universities, which are at present in the hands of other bodies and organizations. This had been returned by the Council of Guardians.

Item: All persons, real or legal, ministries, organizations, government organizations, revolutionary bodies, government officials and municipalities that are at present occupying buildings, student dormitories, rented buildings and other property of the ministries of higher education and culture health and health education, relevant organizations, universities and research centers—both medical and otherwise—must evacuate these areas within six months of this law being passed. The mentioned buildings must then be returned to the ministries of Higher Education and Culture and Health and health education.

With regard to the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] and war refugees this deadline is extended to one year if the province provisions committee agrees. In accordance with the request of these ministries, general local courts have the duty to look into the matter out of turn—ahead of other claims—and give evacuation orders for the mentioned buildings. This is a final order which must be implemented.

In order to secure the vote of the Council of Guardians, the last sentence which said: "This is a final order which must be implemented," was striken from the bill.

Following the report by the relevant commission which was read out by the commission reporter, Mr. Akrami spoke against and Mr. Panahandeh spoke in favor of the bill. Following further remarks by the commission reporter, the suggestion was put to a vote and passed.

The report on the second sitting of the commission dealing with revolutionary organizations with regard to a plan for a law to provide facilities for those who have served during the Islamic revolution and imposed war was the fourth item on the Majles agenda.

This law has been prepared in 37 items. Yesterday's session discussed item 1 and its footnotes.

Item 1: In order to create jobs, solve problems, gather central records and figures and give better services to those who have served during the Islamic revolution and the imposed war (mentioned in footnote one of this item) in order to create coordination in this regard among the organizations that deal with such matters and in order to supervise the actions of the mentioned organizations, the president has the duty to set up a headquarters. This will be named Headquarters for the Affairs of Sacrificers and will include the following representatives:

1. The president's deputy in charge of executive affairs will be the chief of the headquarters.
2. Minister of agriculture or his deputy.
3. Minister of interior or his deputy in charge of centers of expansion.
4. Minister of labor or his deputy.
5. The deputy of the civil service and personnel organization in charge of executive affairs.
6. The deputy of the plan and budget organization in charge of regions.
7. Representatives from the foundation of martyrs, the disabled foundation, the mobilization of the oppressed and other involved organizations.

Footnote: The phrase "all those who have served the revolution of the imposed war" means disabled, prisoners of war, primary families of the martyrs and those missing in action—children, fathers, mothers, spouse, sisters and brothers—and all those fighters who spent at least six months on the fronts voluntarily before the acceptance of the resolution.

Item 1 and its footnote was put to the vote and approved.

The next open session of the Majles will be held on Tuesday 20 February.

Pakistan

Bhutto Not Required To Seek Confidence Vote

BK1503142990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, the federal minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, said that the prime minister is not constitutionally or legally bound to seek a vote of confidence on 20 March or on a later date. Talking to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad today, he said the opposition's demand for the prime minister's reelection has no legal or constitutional basis. Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani said that the leader of the house enjoys the right to seek a fresh vote of confidence from the National Assembly at any time, and she is not required to give advance notice in this regard.

Spokesman Clarifies President's Remarks to Media

BK1503044190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] A spokesman of the Aiwan-i-Sadr [president's house] has expressed surprise and regret at the extent to which President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's brief chat with newsmen in Lahore has been turned out of context and misconstrued as an authoritative opinion on the highly sensitive constitutional question and an affront to some political leaders. He categorically stated that none was intended.

Explaining the real thrust of the president's remarks, the spokesman said that when asked to comment on the constitutional position with regard to 20 March, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan had only reiterated his views that it was not for him to interpret the Constitution and that it was the prerogative of the superior courts, which may be approached by those who saw an ambiguity in the relevant constitutional provision and did not agree with the president's viewpoint.

He said the president's remarks about constitutional violation have also been grossly misreported. The president was asked by a reporter as to why he did not suspend the Constitution. To that, the president replied that no such power was available to him and there was no such provision in the Constitution. He put a counter question to the reporter as to whose [words indistinct] it was and who had suggested such an unconstitutional course of action? In the same context, the president remarked that those who entertain such irresponsible notions were responsible for constitutional crisis in the past. The spokesman recalled that even in one of his earlier speeches, the president had traced the problems of the country through deviation from the Constitution.

So far as affront to Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi was concerned, the spokesman emphasized that all those who

knew the president also knew how respectful he always is, even to an ordinary citizen. The president's [words indistinct] could not conceivably show any indignity to a political leader. Mr. Jatoi, apart from being a friend of the president for a long time, is one of the respected leaders of the Combined Opposition Parties and as such, is held in great esteem by him. The spokesman stressed that the president has always held and expressed the view that in a parliamentary democracy the opposition is and has to be treated as a government in waiting. Accordingly, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan had always been advocating, within the constitutional framework, the just and legitimate cause of the opposition and will continue to do so in the larger interests of the democratic dispensation. [Words indistinct] how could he refer to the leader of the opposition in a disrespectful manner, the spokesman asked.

Yaqub Khan on Foreign Policy, Kashmir Issue

BK1403143990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] In Islamabad today, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan briefed the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs about current foreign policy with special reference to the situation in occupied Kashmir. He expressed concern that the Indian Government has expelled all foreign journalists from the occupied territories to conceal from the international press the atrocities unleashed by the military in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. This makes clear the gravity of the situation in the occupied territories. However, he said, the determination of the freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir cannot be crushed by these brutal steps.

PRC Supports Islamabad's Position on Kashmir

BK1603044790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] China has reiterated full support to Pakistan's stand on Kashmir and its settlement through UN resolutions. This was stated by the Chinese ambassador while speaking at a reception in Islamabad yesterday. He said the Chinese Government considered Kashmir as an important issue and its honorable solution could ensure peace and stability in the region.

ROK Foreign Minister Holds Economic Meetings

BK1303162690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The second meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission of Pakistan and the Republic of Korea [ROK] began in Islamabad today. The minister of state for finance, Mr Ahsanul Haq Piracha, who led the Pakistan delegation, hoped that both countries will benefit from each other's experience in the economic field. The Korean foreign minister, Mr Choe Ho-chung, who is representing his country at the meeting, assured all possible measures to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations. Later, the commission set up an experts group to formulate programs in various fields for cooperation during the coming years.

The visiting Korean foreign minister discussed with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan economic and trade relations between the two countries in Islamabad today. The president, while expressing satisfaction at the (?vast) expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, hoped that they would also establish joint ventures.

Meets Finance Official

BK1403031090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung called on Ahsanul Haq Piracha, the minister of state for finance, in Islamabad yesterday and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. The ROK minister expressed satisfaction with the development of Pakistan-ROK cooperation, especially in economic and trade fields.

Ahsanul Haq Piracha called for starting Pakistan-ROK joint ventures in the private sector and underscored the need for the transfer of technology.

Confers With Yaqub Khan

BK1503060290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Formal talks between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea [ROK] were held in Islamabad to review their bilateral cooperation. The Pakistani side was led by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, while the Korean side was led by their Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung. Both sides agreed to explore the various avenues to further strengthen their friendly relations.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan briefed his ROK counterpart on occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan issues. He said that Pakistan desires to establish peaceful relations with India and to remove tension. He underlined that Pakistan's position is based on principles.

On Afghanistan, the foreign minister reiterated the government's policy to continue humanitarian assistance to over 3 million Afghan refugees on its soil and to strive for a peaceful solution of the problem. The ROK foreign minister appreciated Pakistan's role in providing aid to Afghan refugees and assured his country's continued material, moral and political support in this regard.

Signs Agreements After Talks

BK1503163690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pakistan and the Republic of Korea [ROK] have agreed to promote cooperation in various fields, including trade and commerce, industry, aviation, communications, power generation, and science and technology. This was stated in the agreed minutes sgned in

Islamabad today between the two countries at the end of the second meeting of the Pak-Korea joint ministerial commission. Both sides expressed satisfaction that the two-way trade was increasing. They agreed to encourage the visits of industrial delegations to discuss joint venture proposals.

Korea indicated that it will provide $300,000 in the form of various relief items this year for Afghan refugees.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at cooperation between the two countries in science and technology. The minister of state for finance, Mr. Ahsanul Haq Piracha, and the foreign minister of the ROK, Mr. Choe Ho-chung, signed the minutes. Mr. Choe Ho-chung has now gone to Lahore on his way to India.

Seeks Help To Improve PRC Ties

BK1603071190 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 16 Mar p 14

[Text] Islamabad—The Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea Mr. Choe Ho-chung, said here on Thursday [15 March] that his country hoped that Pakistan could help it in improving its relations with China.

He was replying to a question whether his country was seeking help from Pakistan in forging ties with China. He said that Pakistan is willing to help them. He said that his country did not have official relations with China but "we have relations between the private sectors of the two countries". He was optimistic that these relations would lead to official relations. There may be official contacts between the two countries very soon, he said.

The ROK Foreign Minister said that China is going to have Asian Games in September this year and they would need some cooperation from our side.

Karachi Nuclear Plant Closed for Maintenance

BK1603004690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1945 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Karachi, March 15 (AFP)—The Canadian-supplied Karachi nuclear power plant (Kanupp) has been shut down for repairs and maintenance, a spokesman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) said here Thursday [15 March]. He said that the 137-megawatt plant had to be closed for "overhaul of the process saltwater pumps and for the rectification of a mechanical problem of the fueling machine". He said that "the fault cannot be termed an accident leading to the closure", adding, "it was normal replacement of machine parts which is a common thing with such a plant".

The plant will be operational soon after the rectification and maintenance works were completed, the official said, without specifying when. Sources here said it may take at least 15 days. Kanupp was also closed in April last year for more than six months following a leakage of an important quantity, some 35 tons, of heavy water caused by a defective valve. According to Kanupp officials, who tried to dispell the great sensation and apprehensions about the radiation effect, the leakage caused "no serious radiation."

The plant was put back into operation after the necessary repair by Pakistani engineers. Canada, which supplied the nuclear power plant in the early 1960s, discontinued all nuclear cooperation with Pakistan following a controversy over alleged Pakistani efforts at making a nuclear bomb. China and France have recently agreed to sell nuclear power plants to Pakistan to supplement its energy requirements.

Sri Lanka

Foreign Minister on Indian Troop Withdrawal

BK1503124190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1118 GMT 15 Mar 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne, replying to questions regarding the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] said the Indian troops had now withdrawn to the harbour area of Trincomalee. The IPKF has vacated the Trincomalee town and the Sri Lankan police have taken over duties to maintain law and order. There are about 4000 IPKF soldiers in the harbour. Heavy equipment have been loaded to ships and now it (withdrawal) is in its final phase. There are also about 1500 IPKF soldiers in Kankesanthurai who will embark from that port to India in the next few days.

In answer to a question as to were Varadaraja Perumal had gone to, Mr. Wijeratne said I understand he has gone to Mauritius, perhaps "to help in the sugar industry." He said that his prediction that Perumal might not be able to go even to India had proved right.

In reply to another question about the decision on the North-East Provincial Council, Mr. Wijeratne said the constitutional aspects are being looked into, the return of the attorney general is being awaited. Once the attorney general and the governor of the Northeast Province report to the president, he will announce what he will do.

Mr. Wijeratne, in answer to another question whether there were only 1500 IPKF soldiers left, said "it was about that."

He said discussions were taking place with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] over the handing over of weapons, and they were now working side by side with our forces. For they (LTTE) will ultimately have to join our forces. Regularising them will be a good thing now for they will have to join the Army, Navy and Air Force and police.

In reply to another question he said that there were a few Sinhala refugees. They have got used to the camps and they do not wish to leave. It was found that when under pressure in the south, they escaped to the Fort Fredrick refugee camp in order to avoid detection. They will, however, be re-settled.

Mr. Wijeratne said he was pleased with the stand taken by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi in denying a haven for militants in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Militants Said Among Refugees in Orissa

BK1603081690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0726 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Calcutta, India, March 16 (AFP)—India's eastern state of Orissa has asked New Delhi for paramilitary troops amid reports that militants were among some 1,600 Sri Lankan Tamils who sought refuge there, official sources said Friday [16 March].

The state government was concerned that Tamil rebels fleeing the wrath of rival guerrillas in Sri Lanka could use Orissa as a staging post for their militant activities, an official in Bhubaneswar said by telephone.

Reports in the state capital of Bhubaneswar said some 200 to 300 activists of the pro-Indian Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) were among the refugees who landed there Sunday. "This is indeed a disturbing trend. We have to be on full alert," the official said, adding that the state administration was unaware of "this new development." "We must find out what they are up to. According to our information, they have shunned violence. But we have to be careful and not allow Orissa to be used as a base for militants," he said.

Orissa Chief Minister Biju Patnaik has said he was preparing to accept more Sri Lankan Tamils despite protests by tribal minorities. Mr. Patnaik has accused the opposition of fueling unrest in his state over the refugees.

Neighbouring Tamil Nadu State refused to accept the refugees, brought in by two Indian-Navy chartered ships, saying there were militants among them. Tamil Nadu is home to some 55 million Tamils and has close links with Sri Lankan Tamils.

EPRLF men, including the party's top leadership, have fled the country as Indian troops were set to completely withdraw from Sri Lanka's northeastern regions where minority Tamils are concentrated.

The dominant guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), has been hounding supporters of pro-Indian militant groups and has moved into areas vacated by Indian troops sent to Sri Lanka under a 1987 bilateral pact.